**Letter from the Vicar**

Saturday 16 January 2021

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*See amid the winter’s snow*… at last these words can be uttered with meaning this year as we woke to a dusting of the white stuff. Unusually, I wasn’t aroused from slumber this morning until 8.00am by my girls but as soon as they looked out of the window it took a matter of minutes to get dressed and out into the garden for a snowball fight. It didn’t last long but I suspect that will be all the outdoor exercise we do today! By the time to read this I suspect the snow will have melted.

I’m sure the majority reading this letter will be more sensible than me and stay indoors for the whole day. But then comes the choice what to do? Lazy-days at home where there is no fixed agenda were once a luxury, now they are the norm. I suspect we will end up playing board games, watching films, eating too much, and perhaps even having an afternoon nap (during the film that is!) Perhaps your day will be quite similar? What I have listed above sounds a lot like the way many celebrate Christmas so my starting with a Christmas Carol seems quite appropriate, but I know some are using this time to decorate (again) or to catch-up on correspondence. Whatever your plans I hope you have a good day.

Tomorrow will be our second Sunday during Lockdown 3.0 when we have not been able to worship together physically. Although it appears case numbers have started to fall in our area they have not fallen significantly so as to prompt a reversal in our decision to suspend public worship. I for one am using the Lockdown time-period given by the Government as a guide so don’t anticipate resuming gathered worship again until mid/late February… but of course I will keep this under review. Many have been kind enough to comment on the technical quality of our online services and the content. Thank you for sharing your views and to those who enable our worship to be offered to such a high standard. It never ceases to be a joy and privilege to help lead you – God’s people – in prayer and praise. If you are not joining us for online worship I hope you are able to maintain you prayer life and have found resources to help you. If you would like some alternative suggestions do please be in touch.

This past week it has also been pleasing to hear of a significant number of congregants who have either had, or received an invitation to receive their vaccine jabs. Whilst on the various Zoom meetings and socials I attended this week the response had been overwhelmingly positive. Although little glitches in the system are to be expected the majority of experiences had been favourable. I think I am not due to receive the jab until July/August but I rejoice every time I hear one of you has. The road to recovery is starting. The days are actually getting brighter! The ‘dawning brightness of the Lord’ is both here, now, and in the days to come (to paraphrase the prophet Isaiah).

If you fancy a break from your weekly pattern you would be most welcome to join our Zoom Coffee Morning at 11.00am on Wednesday morning and/or our first virtual quiz of the year this Saturday evening at 8.00pm. Please contact me for joining details. If you are thinking about the Quiz you will need 2 internet enabled devices: one for the Zoom connection and one for Kahoot! which enables online gaming together in real-time.

As always you remain very much in my prayers. Keep safe; keep positive; keep warm; and remain steadfast in faith that God loves us, cares for us, and enfolds us in his arms.

In Christ,

 

The Reverend Michael Macey

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