

Letter from the Vicar

Saturday 6 March 2021

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Once again I appear to have 'writer's block'; I find myself searching for things to say. Perhaps that is not really surprising after a week of having meetings/events every night on top of a full diary and home schooling! My brain is just tired. Mercifully the Home Schooling Class of 2021 has come to an end and, God willing, will never be called upon again! Below are some pictures of what Emma and I did as soon as the 'school day' was over – tidied the dining room so as to feel more normal!

And yet in the midst of all this there have been signs and glimpses of a future post-Covid. Schools are returning. The Chancellor has delivered his Budget – helping some but not all, but cautiously restoring the economy. With finances in mind, our Fundraising Committee is working on plans for a Summer Fete in July; plans are developing for our Parish BBQ and Fun Day in June; and there is renewed hope in a Golf Day for this summer. The pandemic really has brought to light how much we as a Church depend upon income from Hall lettings and fundraising. Although our Planned Giving has been resilient during this time and achieved levels seen pre-Covid this does not cover our costs and sadly we were not able to pay our way last year to the tune of ca£35,000. We hope to be able to address this over the coming months.

Planning for the future – something we all did pre-pandemic – has certainly had some challenges recently. But it is pleasing to see that businesses, charities, families, and individuals are beginning to feel confident in a future post-Covid and to start to make and invest in plans for the future. Holidays are being mentioned and booked. Clubs are exploring how they can resume in-person gatherings. Hairdressers are re-connecting with clients. But with this comes questions of whether or not we want to return to some of the things we did pre-Covid or do we actually enjoy doing slightly less? Do we want to do things differently? As a Church we are certainly thinking about continuing to hold some of our meetings online and finding ways to maintain our virtual worshipping presence. But we are also longing for the day when our choir and Junior Church can fully return, and we can enjoy post-Service refreshments together again.

As I said earlier, I'm struggling with what to write this week, so I'm going to end it here. As ever I leave you with my prayers and best wishes. 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,

Mike

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