

# Letter from the Vicar

Saturday, 17 April 2021

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write to you this evening, following the funeral of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Despite the glorious sunshine calling me to clean the car and cut the grass, I stayed in to join the televised service. It's times like these when I recall my days in Westminster and acknowledge all the hidden work – by so many – to ensure these national occasions go so smoothly and with such dignity. A funeral – whether for a prince or pauper, baby or centurion is always a poignant moment filled with emotion, memories, and longing. As we watched Her Majesty sitting alone in St George's Chapel this afternoon I was reminded of the many families I have seen over the last 12 months forced to do the same – quietly sitting apart from loved ones for fear of spreading or catching Covid-19 whilst longing for a hug, to hold a hand, a gentle touch of reassurance. I was pleased though that the cameras did not focus on the Queen too much as this was a moment when she was a wife and not the queen – if that can ever be separated.

Life, however, doesn't stand still as the Queen would acknowledge. Her Majesty's strong faith knows and trusts in the resurrection: that on the last day heaven and earth will be joined together in Christ as his Kingdom reigns over all. As we journey through these days of Easter we are reminded of this each week and the awesome power of God in raising Jesus to new life. The promise is to us and to all people to be with Christ in paradise. And as such we can live these days of parting confident of our eternal reunion.

For our Parish, things are also rising to new life. Meetings are resuming. Baptisms and weddings are resuming. Plans are forming for social events, fundraisers, and Memorial Services. Next week we hold our APCM after the 10.00am Combined Parish Eucharist – a chance to recalibrate our common life and focus on our vision for the future. I hope that as many as are able to come to this meeting. Perhaps you might also like to offer yourself in service of the parish by standing to be a member of the PCC?

As always I leave you with my prayers and best wishes, and the proclamation of our Easter faith, for:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is Risen.  
He is Risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia”

In Christ,



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