

1<sup>st</sup> April 2020

Good morning friends, another day, another e-mail.

It seems that many churches are now using social media to reach their congregations and beyond. If reports from my fellow clergy are anything to go by, this enforced experiment seems to be going very well. Numbers of people 'tuning in' to live media broadcasts from vicarages all over the country, are growing very quickly and in some cases, to very large numbers indeed.

I think that this is partly about the need for people to engage with others, even if it is in a fairly limited way. It's also about how there is still a strong element of trust, not only in the church but in individual parish priests. The connections we make day to day can be quite significant and it is a real privilege to be able to engage with strangers, often at a very deep level, in a short space of time. I think it's this real engagement with people that has encouraged so many to look to the church as a source of support and encouragement in these strange days. My hope is that when all this is over and we return to 'normal' we shall be able to maintain and build on the connections we have made.

I'm already thinking about the possibility of continuing with morning and evening prayer on Facebook as one way we might do this and I am pondering how we may build on this new way of being church.

As always, do take care of yourselves and your loved ones at home and remember we are only a phone call away if you need anything or just want to chat. Along with Rose and others, we are staying in touch with those who do not have e-mail, so please be assured, no one is being forgotten!

PS Valerie informs me that Maldon Fruit and Veg. Wholsale are delivering to Chelmsford if you need anything. Thanks Valerie!

[maldon.fruit@gmail.com](mailto:maldon.fruit@gmail.com) Tel: 01621 859613

There's also some food for thought in an attachment from Rose and something that's a bit of fun from Pam Saunders, which made me smile.

Tom

Sent by Canon Tom Page  
Vicar: Ascension with All Saints  
Chelmsford  
(AwAS)

