

20th April 2020

Greetings friends, here's a little something I received from David and Frances Milham that made me smile.

Dear Father Tom

We decided to go on a self catering holiday at 42 Maltese Road! Our provisions are delivered to our door by our daughter, who has forbidden us going to my favourite place - the supermarket! Thus far we have enjoyed three weeks of 'away from it all'. We normally only go on holiday for two weeks as we do not like to leave the garden for longer. This year the garden looks wonderful. I understand that I am going to enjoy another three weeks of this holiday, as long as the weather lasts. The only person we have seen and stopped to talk to is you. Keeping social distancing was not difficult as you had Dave with you. We appreciate that we are the lucky ones, having each other, a garden and a food supply chain. Keep safe, keep well and be happy.

Regards

David and Frances Millham

With the lockdown now planned to go on for another three weeks it's good that we are able to find some positives in the little things that are part of our lives, at least that's what Janette said when we were talking the other day! Seriously though, it is true that with this break from what we knew as 'normal life' we are being challenged to see things differently. Already there is much talk of there being a 'New Normal' when the lockdown comes to an end and who knows what that might be? We all, however, have a chance to create our own 'new normal' at a personal level and this time of enforced solitude gives us ample opportunity to think about what that may be. More prayerful, more thoughtful, better listeners, more helpful, who knows? It's up to each of us to decide for ourselves, let's not waste this time but use it to make some positive adjustments to our lives that may well make life better for us when this is all over.

And finally...Helvetica and Times New Roman walk into a bar.

'Get out of here' the barman says 'We don't serve your type!'

and...Yesterday I saw a chap spill all his Scrabble letters in the road.

I asked him, 'What's the word on the street?'

Sent by Canon Tom Page

Vicar: Ascension with All Saints

Chelmsford

(AwAS)