

21st April 2020

Good morning (assuming that's when you're reading this) friends.

Taking funerals has become a strange experience. After more than 30 years of conducting funeral services the current situation has forced some changes that make it very different from the process I have become used to over the years. Suddenly, an area of my ministry where I felt comfortable and in control is very new and, for me, unsatisfactory.

Whereas I am used to visiting families at home and building a connection through the process of talking through the service and finding out about their departed loved one, we now have to do things by telephone and e-mail. This lack of the 'personal touch' makes it very difficult for families and clergy alike I'm sure, and with only a maximum of 10 people allowed in the chapel, the sense of a good 'send off' is distinctly lacking. I am, however, offering people the opportunity to have a memorial service in church, with all those who would have normally attended the funeral. Goodness knows when that will be though.

One of the good things that happened very early on though, was that the C of E decided to cancel all funeral fees until the current situation is over and I think that that's the right thing to do. It shows a certain amount of sensitivity, which, let's be honest, the church doesn't always demonstrate.

On a lighter note!

And finally...

My girlfriend got angry and threw some extra-strength Omega 3 capsules at me today. It's okay though, I only have super fish oil injuries.

and...

For sale:

Muhammad Ali DVD collection and George Foreman grill. Both boxed.

Oh dear!

Sent by Canon Tom Page

Vicar: Ascension with All Saints

Chelmsford

(AwAS)

