

29<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Greetings dear friends, I am very grateful for your messages of support and encouragement during these strange times. When the lockdown first began, I wondered what it might mean for the church community and how we might maintain our connection. It's so easy to share news and thoughts over a boiled egg and coffee after Mass on a Sunday and we, quite naturally, take it for granted.

My initial panic was over how to keep out life of worship active and meaningful. Having not been gifted with a flair for technology (among other things!), I was very concerned about the possibility of broadcasting our services at all. However, with a little trial and error, it soon became clear that live streaming on Facebook was relatively simple and with Jane's wizarding skills (clearly went to Hogwarts) it was possible to link up our services to the Parish Web Site.

I hope that the initial unease of my presentations is less of a problem now, as I get more used to talking at my phone and taking services in isolation. It's a real joy to know that so many people are getting something useful from the regular setting aside of time for God at Morning and Evening Prayer.

I too have benefited from having to learn to organise the whole Mass from my dining room table, which seems appropriate as it is centered on the recollection of the Last Supper. I have to make sure that everything I need is to hand and remember that I cannot rely on the serving team to give me a nudge should I forget something!

Secondly, I decided that it might be good to send the odd e-mail! This, however, soon took on a life of its own.

The regular number of 'Newsletter' recipients went from 24 to 60 and the nature of the beast changed

significantly from just newsletter and notices, to all kinds of stuff. It has been a major element in maintaining

contact with people that we might normally see on a Sunday and indeed making contact with others from further

afield. We have also kept in touch with those who do not have access to the internet via telephone. Rose and

others are regular callers to this small but faithful group as have I and as a congregation, we seem to be coping

remarkably well, I'm happy to say.

I hope that we shall be able to maintain this strong level of support for each other throughout the current problems

but I am very much looking forward to the time we shall be able to share the same building.

It's going to be some party!

And Finally...

I didn't think Orthopaedic shoes would help. But I stand corrected.

Tom

Sent by Canon Tom Page

Vicar: Ascension with All Saints

Chelmsford

(AwAS)