

11<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Good day to you all! You will be glad to hear, no doubt, that the Diocese is still planning to ordain the new curates in September. This is good for Julia and her family and indeed for us. There have been some issues surrounding availability of housing, but the Diocese have identified a suitable home for Julia, Colin and Sally, not too far outside the parish. All we need to do now is pray hard that sufficient restrictions are lifted in time for them to move from France before the ordination. So, on your knees everyone!

Moving home can be stressful enough at the best of times but having to move country, and change job as well will surely be a test of faith for Julia, so in all seriousness, I'm sure she would welcome our prayers at this time. She will be moving into a very different situation than the one we were expecting and I suspect that this year's ordination will be quite unlike any I have experienced and that's quite a few!

In some ways I suppose the situation is rather more 'New Testament' than usual. S. Paul and his travelling companions could never be sure what to expect when they brought the Good News to a new city. It would seem that Julia and her fellow ordinands, will find themselves in a similar situation. Wherever we are in the process of re-establishing a more regular way of life, they will not have the luxury of being able to immerse themselves into a settled community with a settled pattern of life and events.

This will be a challenge for Julia but also for us, as we seek to make her and her family welcome in their new home. However, this is the mighty parish of Ascension with All Saints and we will find a way.

For those of a more technical mind here is some information from Bill about why the signal for our services is 'variable'

*The reason for poor internet connection is, for landline (wired and WiFi) lack of switching space at various sites. These transfer the landline signal between various telecoms centres before ending up at some server with the programs running whatever website is being viewed. They are all, including website servers, running at maximum capacity due to lockdown home useage and any problems on any of these linkage points cause a reduction in service speed and quality including drop outs or even no service at all (although this is very rare now days).*

*For mobile link that just adds an additional layer - rather than wired or WiFi it's high frequency long(ish) range radio. Now, the chance for overload of mobile tower link is greater as it takes considerably more connections before sending onwards and any problems, before eventually reaching the server, is magnified.*

*The real problem locally are black spots where signal from and to towers is low AND recently the anti-5G believers who have been firebombing mobile phone towers. The main local one was bombed at the start of the Lockdown so reducing massively its capacity.*

Thanks for that Bill.

Also I have an intriguing invitation for you from Jessa, our Musical Director...*if anyone is interested in joining the choir and would be able to record themselves at home feel free to contact me.*

*Hope you're keeping well! Kind regards,*

*Jessa*

Plenty to get our minds going today, Tom

And finally...A lady advertised for a travelling companion concluding:

“Christian wanted, cheerful if possible”

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