

9th May 2020

Here's a slightly updated version of the draft I accidentally sent on Thursday!

Also the hymns for Sunday are attached.

It felt really good to be back in Church for Morning and Evening Prayer on Thursday and for the short service to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe. Janette and I were at the War Memorial in Chelmsford at 11am and although there were only about 20 people gathered it was strangely moving. Two police officers stopped their car and opened the doors, turned the radio up and we were able to hear the Last Post.

Thanks to the continued generosity of our parishioners, I was able to stock up the 'Little Free Pantry' in North Avenue and had a chance conversation with a chap who wondered if it would be OK to put some books in it. We had a very pleasant exchange and he told me he thought this was a great idea and how happy he was to see the churches supporting the community in this way.

I'm really looking forward to Presiding at the Sung Mass on Sunday too. Whilst the intimacy of the Vicarage dining room had a charm of its own it was, I felt, a little restrictive. I had to make sure I didn't sing too loudly in case it set Dave off, and I'm sure the neighbours would have been grateful for that small mercy!

In Church I shall have more space and freedom to help us offer our worship in a way that is closer to our regular experience and for many there will be comfort in that. I may still, however, offer some online things from the Vicarage. I hope to arrange 'Zoom' meetings, for those with the knowhow, for some things like a virtual coffee morning or discussion group.

I hope people will feel free to join in if they are able.

Tom

And finally...Seen on a church notice board

Carpenter, needs joiners.

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