

Hello everyone, I hope this message finds you fit and well.

As the church begins to re-open for services there is a palpable sense of relief that some of us are now able to, physically, make our communion. Many of us are still restricted by the 'Shielding' guidance, which is absolutely right for people's safety and well-being.

The restrictions on meeting in Church came as a bit of a shock to us and we were not sure what it would mean or how long it would last. We had never been in the position of not being able to make our communion before and none of us could have known how long the lockdown would last or how it would feel to go without our communal worship. Very quickly the church moved to make it possible for clergy to celebrate the Eucharist on their own and, as churches were closed, from home and for people to be able to make Spiritual Communion. This has been unusual but in my opinion, a valuable option for those Churches, like ours, where the Eucharist is central to our theology and worship. Nevertheless it has been the desire of many of our family to be able to make their communion in person and we are now able to do that, at least for a few of us.

The opportunity to stop and think about why we have missed communion so much has, in its own way, been interesting. "You don't know what you've got till it's gone" as the saying goes. This may well be a great topic for a discussion group when we get back to more regular meeting habits.

In other news, Julia was licensed as a parish worker last week, and as a part of our team now she will be taking on sending these e-mails on Monday and Wednesday which, I hope will give a bit more diversity to our communications. She will be moving to Chelmsford in early August and I hope we will be able to make her welcome, albeit in a less fulsome way than we might like.

And finally...There once was a pious young priest

Who lived almost wholly on yeast

"For", he said " It is plain

We must all rise again

And I want to get started at least"

Canon Tom Page

Vicar Ascension with All Saints

Chelmsford