

18<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Greetings friends, I was wondering how everyone is holding up under the stresses and strains of the last few months. Generally speaking, people seem quite well, judging by the responses to my e-mails and telephone calls but you can never be sure. The dreaded 'Stiff upper lip' the Brits are often so proud of may sometimes be a hinderance, leading us to cover up how we really feel and what actually going on in our lives.

I hope that's not the case for any of our church family but if it is, know that it is not a weakness nor an imposition to seek help, or even just a friendly ear from whomever you feel most comfortable with. We are all human and all have our good and bad days, if you need a little buoying up just ask. The person you call may well be just as happy to have some contact to break up their day.

One of the topics I get most response to, is the value of our regular Morning and Evening Prayer services on line. They have been a real anchor for people, particularly when Lockdown was full on and many of us were confined to home and our regular patterns of life were disrupted.

Another e-mail that elicited a strong and I'm happy to say, positive response, was when I mentioned finances and levels of giving to the church during Lockdown. I'd been putting it off for some time I have to admit but clearly many of you had given it some consideration too. Indeed, I'm including the Bank details of the Church at the end of this message so that, those who wish, may make a contribution. Someone asked if that's why I'd started sending these e-mails in the first place but honestly, I have to say Church Finances were not really on my mind at all until much, much later. The initial point of these e-pistles was simply to keep in touch with as many people as possible and to remind us all that God and the church are faithful companions, whatever happens along the journey of our lives. I hope that doesn't sound too pious.

Anyway, we move on and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Church on Sunday. We have plenty of room at the moment and getting back into the swing of 'churchgoing' is important. Don't forget to let me know if you're coming.

Bank details are...

Account Name: Ascension with All Saints

Sort code: 20 19 95

Account no.: 70692190

And finally...A young boy came home from Sunday School and proudly announced that he had been asked to

read from the Bible that morning. When asked what he'd been asked to read he said: "The gossip according to John".

Sent by Canon Tom Page

Vicar: Ascension with All Saints

Chelmsford

(AwAS)