

6th July 2020

Well that was an interesting weekend friends! Our first Mass with a congregation in church since March and it was strange. A new layout for the chairs, new rules of behaviour, all a bit strange in many ways but very familiar in others. It's going to take a while to get used to how we should do things now and, indeed, that may well change from week to week as new guidelines are given by the government and national church. The situation is, as they say, fluid. Yet we have proven ourselves to be quite resilient in dealing with change.

Change has been a regular feature of our lives at AwAS for some time. First of all, people had to get used to me, a new vicar after 25 years or so with Fr. Ivor (R.I.P). Not long after that we had the unification of the two congregations of Ascension and All Saints and the many adjustments that came with that move. There have been many other changes too (but I won't list them all here). The point is we, and many other congregations around the country have proven to be far more adaptable, creative and strong than many would have believed. This, I think, bodes well for the future. People have seen how the church is able to organise and co-ordinate help, not just for itself and its own members but for the wider community. A re-discovery, perhaps, of some of the work of the church in times gone by.

No doubt there is much more change ahead, but we may look forward now with much more confidence in ourselves and our community, to be able to deal with change. In all of this, of course, we must remember to give thanks to God, whose faithfulness and love has been demonstrated by the work of His people.

Tom

And finally...Doctor: "All you need is a rest".

Vicar: "But Doctor, look at my tongue".

Doctor: "Yes, that needs arrest too".

Sent by Canon Tom Page

Vicar: Ascension with All Saints

Chelmsford

(AwAS)