



The Churchwardens Write



When we wrote our first wardens' letter at the start of our Parish Vacancy last September we had no inkling of what was to come. More recently, when Allen wrote his letter for last month's magazine he spoke of Spring with its sunshine, brighter days and new life.

Little did we know then that the world was about to be plunged into a pandemic, the likes of which we have never experienced in our lifetime.

The Covid-19 virus has spread to nearly every country in the world and has in one way or another impacted every part of our community from the young to the elderly. Schools have closed, churches are shut, social events and gatherings have all been cancelled or postponed. We are experiencing major changes in our lives and it is vital that we come together as a community to support each other. All over the country we see a strengthening sense of community spirit; a pensioner approaching his 100th birthday raising over £25million for the NHS by walking in his garden; a village phone box being turned into a larder for community use; and then there's the Thursday evening handclap in support of the NHS and all other essential workers.

We all need to look out for the elderly, the lonely or the housebound, and isn't it good to see so many offers of support from private individuals and public bodies alike? In Matthew 25 we read "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Even a simple chat on the phone is important (remember Bob Hoskins' BT advert - "It's good to talk").

This pandemic will ultimately pass and our normal lives will resume, and it would be good to think that this coming together of our communities might continue. But will it, or is it just some temporary blip before much of society returns to the usual "looking after number one" attitude? We've already seen the stripping of supermarket shelves by hoarders, and now we have further scam emails offering all manner of help during this coronavirus crisis - apparently it's as simple as "enter your bank details to ensure you're on our database".

The world currently looks a bleak place and we have no idea what state it will be in when you finally read this letter. For some, despair will have replaced hope, but remember that hope is not lost. Although we may not have shared our Easter services in church, the hope that Jesus Christ sets before us remains. Despite the darkness of Good Friday when Jesus died upon the cross, we see the light He brings into our broken world through the Resurrection of Easter Morning. In this troubled world we must never forget that the light of Jesus shines as brightly today as it did on that first Easter Day, and will continue to shine forever.

Stay safe.

David and Dejan