

## Letter for Week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Church

I can't quite believe how long we've been apart; I think it's over 12 weeks now? It's become very normal in some ways but in others I am desperately missing church 'proper', which is not a feeling I've often had as a so called 'pioneer' priest! With this in mind, we are reviewing the guidance from the Church of England to consider ways we can open the church for personal prayer. This won't be in place from the 15<sup>th</sup> June, but we are working hard to see what the options are.

This week we are hosting the online service at Drax and Carlton churches, and the theme is prayer. On our weekly reflections as a church we've been looking at the Prayer Course and learning about different aspects of the Lord's Prayer. I think a few of us have really enjoyed thinking about this from a new angle. This week, it's about how we pray for the wider world, in our intercessions. This is one part of the Sunday service when we join with other Christians across the Diocese to pray for other churches, leaders, and our politicians, but also for parts of the world where there is war or social problems. In his book Pete Grieg describes this as being in the middle with God on one side, and the world on the other, and trying to communicate between the two camps. He compares this to a child trying to get her parents to speak nicely to each other! The children are certainly on my list of people to pray for now, as they are really beginning to miss friends and family and may have to intercede as us parents get tired and grumpy! I really hope the virus rate drops soon, so we can start to relax a little bit in our day to day lives and they can see their friends again.

Meanwhile the garden is finally getting some rain, and I am loving the time to see the plants grow and the birds nests hatch, and the seeds we have planted become ready for planting out. In the reading this week (Matthew 9 v 35-38) Jesus talks about the harvest, and how we need to be ready at the right time and the right place. Sometimes in the garden it can seem like there is a lot to do and other times we get to enjoy it more. Either way we are blessed to be able to enjoy nature, at home and around us in this wonderful part of the world.

I hope you feel Jesus's love in your day to day lives and continue to be a blessing to those around you in the small ways we can all help.

Rev Becky and Rev Anna

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### Café Church: Lockdown Zoom special! 11am this Sunday

If you would like to join us online the service will be on the DVDs and website as normal, however we are also introducing the opportunity to join us on video conference on Zoom. If you would like to try it, please do. It would be lovely to be together and see your faces! Do contact Becky for a practice run or tutorial if you would like to give it a go for the first time.

The joining instructions are to click on the link below at 11am on Sunday and the service will be fairly short with plenty of time to share a coffee and chat.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84127312537?pwd=ayt1V213RjRFaFlrZ3NhSEpuaFZ2QT09>

If people would like to telephone on the landline instead the number is any of these below

+44 203 481 5240

+44 131 460 1196

+44 203 051 2874

+44 203 481 5237

If asked to type in details, the Meeting ID is 841 2731 2537 and the Password is 472413