



# THE PARISH OF ST. MARGARET, INGOL



Hello dear friends,

Early November and it hardly seems real that we find ourselves in almost the same situation that we were in over 7 months ago, in shut down, movement restricted and church only open for private prayer. A bonus I have to say, as earlier in the year we were not even open for that, and as we are open, so many of us are still joining together for worship on Sundays. Please remember we are open from 10am to 10.30am and from 11.30am to 12.00 for private prayer on Sundays, and if you would like to join us just drop me a line or give me a call and I can book you in for either time, [revrie52@outlook.com](mailto:revrie52@outlook.com) or 01772 727208, it would be so good to see you in church.

In this week's envelope I have enclosed a pledge card and an envelope for the initiative I mentioned in my last letter from Bishop Julian, Bishop of Blackburn. I have copied parts of the last letters sent to clergy with reference to this.

From Bishop Julian.....

“This is a diocesan led initiative to boost parish funds at the end of this very challenging year, to enable current levels of stipendiary mission and ministry to continue – a one off sacrificial gift to see us through this time of crisis. This will show itself in a parish being able to meet its requested parish share in full, or increase its parish share beyond what is requested to meet the full cost of the ministry received.”

“Before any of us decide whether and how to respond to this Gift Day opportunity, we are called to pray. Jesus taught very clearly in Luke II that our prayer should be persistent and earnest, based on His commands and promises to ask, seek and knock and based on our Father in heaven's delight to give good gifts to His children. During these 17 days of prayer, please use the prescribed prayer, times of fasting and online evening prayer, as a way of seeking and hearing from God, how He invites us to respond. These will take commitment and effort and you may have to carve time out to participate but a groundswell of prayer around the Diocese calling on God for a generous response to this Gift Day is the chief way of opening our hearts to know our response.”

The Diocese will assist with the following resources -

- Broadcast evening prayer every night from the 12th to the 29th November at 7pm. This will be led by a different member of the Bishop's Leadership Team each night and will feature prayers for the parishes. Each and every parish will be prayed for by name over the two weeks and a rota detailing when your deanery will be prayed for will be released. However, we would hope that people will make this a part of their pattern of prayer throughout two weeks and make space to join in with as many as is possible.
- Upload a collection of written resources which can be used to aid personal prayer each day.

- Share videos which will engage children and teenagers in the topics of both prayer and giving. These will be available to watch at home with families or shown to youth groups either online or as they meet in person.
- Provide 2 written theological reflections from different perspectives which will help us as we think about what it means to make a sacrificial gift and what the Biblical basis for what we are praying for is.
- Produce a pledge card and special giving envelope to be used on Advent Sunday.

I will let you have the links for the Diocescen website materials when they have been released, I will share prayers and reflections through our letters and through the daily e-mails I send out. Please think carefully and prayerfully about your ability to be able to help your parish through what is becoming an increasingly difficult time. Our income is somewhat depleted, and, with everything shut down including our hall, we need to look at our means to keep us going. So, I urge you please, think about this Gift Day on 29<sup>th</sup> November, and if you would like to donate a one-off sum (over and above your normal giving) to help your parish, then we would be most grateful.

As lock down continues, if anyone needs any help in any way, please ring or e mail and I will do my utmost to help.

Take care everyone, and most importantly, stay safe.

With my love and every blessing

Rev Rie