



THE PARISH OF ST. MARGARET, INGOL



Hello my dear friends,

I hope you are all well, and have had an enjoyable, if not quiet Christmas? We are still celebrating Christmas of course, and will do so until February 2nd, and I have to say the services and celebrations we have had to date have been wonderful, and welcoming the Christ Child once again has been the biggest joy. The vicarage looks bare after all the cards and the tree has gone, I have to say that went really quickly all that mess, needles everywhere, but the nativity sets and little statuettes around the place remind me daily of the coming of the Christ Child and bring a ready smile to my face as I see something or other sitting on a window sill surrounded by candles (those battery driven things that light up automatically and that I don't forget to put out each evening!!!) lighting up the scenes at dusk; just lovely.

As I write to you, we are once again in "shut down" and it seems are likely to remain so for some weeks. A strange and difficult situation but needs must as it were, something we have already experienced and so have some idea of what is to come and how we can cope. As I write this, we have already endured 2 weeks of shutdown, just 4 to go until review, and then, hopefully, some more freedoms, at least to get out more would be good, but I'm not sure the weather is allowing that so much at the moment. I have a garden that is under water, swimming anyone? And I am really disappointed the snow has not materialised as yet, I had wellies and spade all ready to be able to make a snowman! – give it time.....The light on the horizon is of course, vaccination, and I know that some of you have already received theirs, great stuff. Do go when you are called for it, if getting there is a problem, please let me know and we can arrange something to help you.

And with this further shutdown we also see that our church is once more closed to communal worship. A decision not made lightly I can assure you, but one made with the agreement of the churchwardens and the PCC for everyone's care and safety. So, there is no communal worship at St Margaret's Church on a Wednesday or on a Sunday until further notice. We hope to review the situation in line with the Government review in February and I will write and let you know the decisions that have been made then.

We may not be together in person, but we are still together in prayer and spirit. Letters are going out to everyone again, and we can join in our weekly "services" from home, circling the whole of Ingol, Tanterton and Cottam with our prayers and love, if that's not healing and uplifting then what is? Please join us at 10am on Sundays, use the service sheets and we will be united in worship as ever. I have all sorts of things going on here ready for me to post out to you which I hope will help your spiritual life and will keep us together. We have a Lent course, some bible study groups and there is a great study session to be held on zoom this Saturday (23rd) by Rev Dr Ian Paul on the book of Revelation. You will need to book in on

Eventbrite and they will then send you the links for it. Having recently attended a session on “preaching Mark’s gospel” I can highly recommend Ian, he is easy to listen to and so enlightening. Do attend if you get the chance, it will be good! The link for Eventbrite is below.....oh and it’s free!

[Demystifying the Book of Revelation - ON ZOOM Tickets, Sat 23 Jan 2021 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)

Along with keeping our brains active, trying to do some sort of exercise to keep our bodies from falling to bits, we need to care for each other. Please keep ringing each other and supporting each other, as I know so many of you already do. If there is just one more person you can out on your list of people that you keep in touch with, please do that and ring them regularly. If you know of anyone that needs a regular phone call or help in any way, please ring and we will see what we can do to help. There are so many people already that have benefited from your thoughts and actions and are now being “looked after” from afar. Thank you for all you do for each other and keep on doing it.

In the meantime, I will continue to hold you all close in prayer.

With my love and every blessing

Rev Rie

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