



# THE PARISH OF ST. MARGARET, INGOL



Dear friends,

I cannot believe where January has gone and that we are in February already, are heading fast for Lent and are still in shut down. Still, needs must I suppose, I pray that it is all worth it and that the R rate comes down low enough for us to begin start the path out of lockdown very soon and that we can celebrate Easter together this year. It seems harder this time round, I can't think why, we have the same restrictions as before and should be more that used to it all now, yet I know for many lockdown appears to be harder this time round. It is especially hard for those who are still isolating, and those who have joined those numbers recently. Not seeing loved ones is especially tough and there is no amount of zooming, face time or phone calls that replaces that yearned for hug, and for those of us who have lost friends and loved ones it is especially hard. And it's in times like this that we need each other more than ever, it's time to care for one another, not just those in our "bubble"- but those who we know who are round and about us and would really appreciate a phone call, just to let them know you are there. It is so uplifting, and it could just make someone's day – so go on make the call, tell someone you are thinking about them, please.

The new buzz word is, of course, "vaccination", and I know from my conversations with you that quite a few have already been called for "the jab" – great stuff, keep them coming is what I say. You are the lucky ones, some of us may have to wait until way after Easter to be called, but no matter, what is more important is that everyone goes who is called. If you have a call and you cannot get to the vaccination centre – never fear- we can help! Just let me know and we can arrange to get you there, and home again of course!

As I have said we are heading fast for Lent and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday, so I have included the Ash Wednesday service along with the normal Sunday services and also with a copy of the Lent course from the Diocese for you. I plan to follow this Lent course with you this year as we are unable to get together and my plans for film nights have been well and truly banjaxed! I am also planning to start some bible study classes on zoom, on a fortnightly basis, so if you are interested please let me know so I can give you the details. It will start the week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

Church is still closed, at the moment, but we will be reviewing that decision in the very near future and I am hopeful we can start holding worship services again very soon. Watch out for notices about this on the website or in our emails.

I know it is hard at the moment to ever believe that there will be an end in sight to all this madness that is Covid 19. We hear and see on the media time and time again that there are further strains, that they are more virulent than before and it becomes nothing but more and more frightening. But throughout everything we must remember that we are not alone. We must know that everyone of us is of infinite value in the sight of God, and that He will not forsake us. No matter how tough things get, we must keep going, a thought that we should hold on to as reflect on as we all begin our Lenten journeys with Christ; He held, He kept going and He won over in the end. And so shall we, with God's grace. So keep up the prayers, be kind to yourself and to others, we are all in the same boat together, it's a bit rough at the moment I know, but Christ will, as ever, calm the storm and bring us safely to shore. I have every faith He will do so.

Take care, stay safe. If you need anything ring please.

With my love and every blessing

Rev Rie

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