



THE PARISH OF ST. MARGARET, INGOL



Dear friends,

And so here we are in Lent. It seems to have come round really quickly, and with it, Easter is just over the horizon, a bright spark of hope and joy for us to look forward to. For Lent this year, I have ensured that you all have a hard copy of the booklet of the daily readings, and I pray that you will be able to use them to generate time in reflection and prayer. I hope the booklets give you food for thought and will form the basis of a meaningful and reflective prayer time this Lent. It is ever my hope and prayer that we will be open, in some form, for Easter and that this year we will celebrate together. In the meantime we can join together at home in Lent reflection and prayer.

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.

It was so good to catch up with so many of you when I came round with the Lent book delivery. I am amazed and heartened by all your stories and at what you are all getting up to keeping yourselves busy during this lockdown. You are all so inventive, and some of you so funny! I have loved the tales you have regaled, from the lady who has painted her doors so many times that they now won't shut, to the 93-year-old who can't get out so exercises by walking up and down the stairs 5 times in one go, I am not sure I could go up and down my stairs 5 times so I certainly take my hat off to her!! People have started baking, doing new crafts, reading more, and most of all, praying more. It seems that we all have been able to find more time for God, absolutely fabulous! Let's hope we can all keep that up when we are out and about once again.

I am also surprised and pleased that so many of you have had your first, if not your second vaccination. That's such good news. By the time you read this I should have had my first vaccination, and I like so many of you, have found this has lifted my spirits enormously. To think that we may, at last be seeing a return to something of normality is good news. I fear that we may still be social distancing and mask wearing for many months to come, but it is such a step in the right direction and brings such hope, and let's face it, we are so used to masks and shouting at each other from a distance that it will be nothing new. It's the hugs I

miss, I am a very "huggy" person and find it so difficult not to be able to show love and comfort except from behind a mask yelling from the bottom of people's drives. Please accept a huge virtual hug from me to you, it will have to do for the time being.

As I get round the parish, or phone you it is just so lovely to speak to you and spend time chatting, put the world to rights, and talk about friends and relatives, as you do. We talk, of course, about the pandemic and what it doing in the world now and how, when vaccinated, we can do more "out in the world". It strikes me, that sometimes all we can talk about was what has happened with regard to our lives and Covid, and what will happen in the same respect. What about the now? We appear to be so wound up with past and future that we were not seeing God and His work in the now..... are we all doing this because of the situation we are in? It strikes me, from many conversations I have had recently, that maybe we are..... "sometimes the narrow road is paying attention to the here and now and the wide road is being immersed in the yesterdays that are no more and the tomorrows which never come," help us Lord to be more aware of your presence in our day to day, to heed your thoughts and teachings, to see beyond yesterday, which we cannot change, tomorrow, which we cannot influence as you have planned it, and live for today, living for you and with you in all that we do, starting with our Lent journey to the Cross.

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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