



THE PARISH OF ST. MARGARET, INGOL



Dear friends,

We continue to journey on together through Lent, a journey to the cross, a brighter place, and also towards, we pray, a brighter place in our nation and communities. A light at the end of the tunnel in the “Road Map” that the prime Minister has produced to lead us out of lockdown. And as you read this, the first part is just about to begin; children returning to school and we will be allowed to meet one other person from another household for coffee or a picnic, on a bench. Bet there will be some very busy parks in the next few days!! But how wonderful that we can begin to start to see friends again, friends that we may not have seen for weeks, if not months. There is, as always, another side to all this. We are still in lockdown and there are many people with underlying health conditions that are deemed to be at risk and still have to continue shielding for the next few weeks. So whilst we may be wanting to frisk around like spring lambs, spare a thought for those who cannot go out yet and are still constrained at home.

Church is still closed, at the moment, but we have started looking at this and will be opening again on 21st March, for the 10am and 11.30am services as normal. Bookings MUST be made, please ring on 01772 727208 or email on revrie52@outlook.com to reserve your seat, all restrictions still remain in place; social distancing remains, masks MUST still be worn, track and trace systems remain in place. This means we will be open for Palm Sunday and Easter – hurray! – and again you MUST book in for these services. Wednesday morning services will be re-commenced after Easter. I do hope to see you in church, and we will, as ever, take every precaution to keep you as safe as possible should you choose to come to worship, it will be your choice, we are all responsible for our own risk.

Sunday 14th will be Mothering Sunday, a day, traditionally, when those in service were allowed home for half a day to see their mothers and to take gifts, if they could. Normally a day we would be in church and would be celebrating. It was Mothering Sunday last year that the first shut down began and we were just open for private prayer on that Sunday before shutting down completely. As I sit and reflect on that statement, I can’t help thinking what strange times we are living in at the moment, only the second time the church has been closed to public worship in an effort to protect life and limb. We are truly living history! But, even though we may not make it open this Mothering Sunday, we have much to look forward to and give thanks to God for. Our safety, our families, our loved ones and support

systems, the control and fight to reduce and eradicate the pandemic, and above all God's love and care for us, His faithful support, walking alongside us every step of the way in these challenging times. Times, that, despite all the hype and bonne-amie we are hearing in the media, are not quite over yet. I pray that people will still understand the restrictions that are placed on them, that they can and will stick to what is needed to prevent further spread of the disease and that vaccination uptake is widespread and effective. Patience and watchfulness are still the words we need to abide by, and prayers for the good of all as we move forward.

So, a brighter letter I feel this time.....hopefully, much changing, not quickly enough for some I know, but patience and faith will bring us through. God has walked beside us through all of this, and in this period of Lent, we should now be walking with Him on the path of the cross, towards the joy and hope of Easter. A glorious and joyous time to look forward to, and one we can, hopefully, as long as things don't change again, celebrate together.

So keep up the prayers, be kind to yourself, be kind to others, looking forward to a more hopeful time.

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

With my love and every blessing

Rev Rie

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