

Dear Parishioners

Warm greetings to you all in the Lord Jesus Christ as we approach the season of Lent. I have pleasure in providing details of this year's Live Lent devotional booklet which is available by email or an App at <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/livelent-2021-church-resources-gods-story-our-story> I hope you will find it helpful. It enables a daily period to be set aside for a bible reading, prayer and reflection. Revd Suzie prayed this morning that we would all fully participate in Lent, as a time of spiritual enrichment and not just feel that we have given up so much, already.

We sadly, paid tribute to the 100,000 (now over 112,000) with one hundred rings of the Tenor Bell (thanks to the Warwick's) and last Thursday at 6pm the Sanctus Bell was rung 100 times to pay tribute to Captain Sir Tom Moore who 'Was the best of us' (Archbishop Justin Welby). In truth we acknowledge the many unsung heroes of this past year, remembering all NHS staff as well as our parishioners and family members, whose lives have been cut short. In the summer we will hold special memorial services. I hope there will be a national memorial.

As I write we are all awaiting news of when society can begin to resume to a more normal way of life, and I hope my next letter will provide news of a date for the re-opening of The Minster. At present we are praying that this will be in time for Passiontide which is several weeks before Easter. Watch this space!

In the meantime, broadcast of worship continues on YouTube and Zoom, which functions better than ever because we have been 'upgraded' to full Fibre Broadband. Daily prayers also continue on Zoom. Homegroups meet online and Rev Nick Wells is offering an additional Zoom Lent Study Group - full details as published in our weekly newsletter/pew sheet.

Having gained full permission and the necessary level of finances from supporting charities such as The Friends of Wimborne Minster and The Governors, work has started on the organ. It has been fully disassembled, affording a view from the Nave right through the Trinity Chapel - a view as Peter Cook reminded us that has been seen rarely in more than 150 years! It is planned that the organ will be rebuilt in time for Easter 2022, cleaned, restored, improved, and with a case more suited to its location.

We hope to replace some of the 1950's flooring exposed at the Rear Nave. We also look forward to resuming our round of social activities, but the Pancake race has had to go online - filming ourselves - how many pancake tosses in thirty seconds? My thanks to Wimborne BID.

The Bishop of Salisbury, Rt Rev Nicholas Holtham has announced his retirement during the summer having served us for ten years. We are invited to join him, with all the diocese, through the Cathedral channel at 5.30pm on Ash Wednesday (Our own liturgy will be at 9:30am, broadcast from The Minster). We will see him when he ordains Revds Nick and Sharon.

Finally, we are preparing to bid farewell, thank you and a happy retirement to Karen Manneh, our Finance Officer in April. We are thus seeking to appoint a new Accounts Manager to take on and expand the role for ourselves and The Villages. Please pray for all these things.

The Lord Bless you and your own - until we meet again, and 'Tomorrow will be a good day'.

The Revd Canon Andrew Rowland
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