

March 2021

Dear friend

I am writing this letter on the first anniversary of the national lockdown in the United Kingdom, which began on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020. It has been a year like no other, an exceptional year in so many ways. Everyone's experiences of the past year are unique.

It's been a year of change and challenge in which we've had to adapt, to change and try to cope. There has been the loss of normal routines, of not being able to meet and see family and friends, the people we know and love. Some people have experienced immense pressures in their work and others have been furloughed or been made redundant. Working from home, studying at home and home schooling became part of 'normal' life for some people.

In addition to these and many other changes and challenges, there has been the concern about contracting the coronavirus, the concern of those who are anxious about their own health or the health of a loved one. People haven't been able to visit family members in hospital or nursing homes, and people haven't been able to be with loved ones in their final days.

As we look back on the past year and as we look to the future, I encourage you to remember God's love and care, to thank Him for everyone and everything that reminds you of His goodness and faithfulness. Talk to Him about what concerns you and troubles you, and about what encourages and inspires you. Ask Him to speak and minister into your life and into the lives of those you love. Look to Him for encouragement, guidance and strength.

**God's steadfast love  
endures forever!**

The Bible tells us about God's steadfast and sacrificial love, his redeeming and renewing love. Psalm 136 tells us, in each of its twenty-six verses, that God's steadfast love endures forever. As we look forward to Good Friday and Easter we are reminded and reassured of God's amazing love for people, God's amazing love for you and for me.

Although the Jewish leaders plotted and schemed to have Jesus put to death, His crucifixion and death were central in God's plan to redeem people and restore their relationship with Him. The angel who appeared to Joseph before Jesus was born said, 'You are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.'

During His earthly ministry, Jesus told His disciples that He was going to Jerusalem where He would be arrested, tried, condemned and crucified. He also told them that He would be raised to life again on the third day. The disciples struggled to understand what Jesus told them. They were confused, fearful and lost when Jesus was arrested, condemned and crucified, and in many ways, they were surprised by the resurrection.

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples to encourage them, to help them understand as He explained the scriptures to them, and He commissioned them to go and make disciples.

As we live through the changes and challenges of these days, God reminds and **Amazing love!** reassures us of His amazing love. He invites and calls us into a relationship with Him, through faith in Jesus Christ as our Saviour, where we can know the presence of the Holy Spirit with us and within us. Ask Him to guide you and sustain you, to help you grow and develop in your faith, to help you understand the Bible, and help you reach out to others with the good news of God's amazing love.

Yours for the sake of Christ

*Roderic*

Please see overleaf for information about Church services resuming, about Holy Week & Easter, and ...

## **'In Person' Church Services Recommence**

Services in churches were suspended in January, as a result of conversations between the Northern Ireland Executive and Church leaders. We are delighted to be able to recommence services in church from the beginning of April, now that this has been agreed and approved. (Online services will continue - see below)

Social distancing of 2 metres must be observed at all times, including at the entrance and exit. Please wear a face covering. Everyone is requested to hand-sanitise at the entrance and fill up designated pews/seats, starting at the front. People attending a service are requested to bring a piece of paper with their name, contact number, and the names of anyone from their household who attend the service with them.

## **Good Friday**

Our first services in Holy Trinity Church and Church Hall will be on Good Friday, 2 April.

12.00 (noon) Holy Trinity Church Service of Readings and Reflections, with Hymns

7.30pm Holy Trinity Church Hall Good Friday Service

## **Sunday Services**

Our Sunday services will resume on Easter Sunday and we will continue with the service times we were using in the autumn, with two services at Holy Trinity and two at St Patrick's.

### **Holy Trinity**

10.00am Service in the Church | 11.15am 'All-age' contemporary service in Holy Trinity Church Hall

### **St Patrick's**

10.00am Service in the Church | 10.00am 'All-age' contemporary service in St Patrick's Church Hall

Please contact the Parish Office to reserve a seat at the 10.00am service in St Patrick's Church on Easter Sunday.

Our pattern of services will be kept under review, and further changes made when circumstances allow.

## **Easter Sunday 'Drive In' Service at Holy Trinity**

In addition to the services on Easter morning, there will be a 'Drive-In' Easter Celebration at 6.30pm.

## **Online Holy Week Series**

The theme for our online Holy Week series is 'Amazing Love'. We will be looking at how Jesus revealed His Amazing Love for people in the events leading up to and including His crucifixion. Available each day from 10.30am. On Good Friday a Service of readings and reflections, with hymns will also be available from 12.00.

## **Online Good Friday Kids Programme - available from 11.30am**

## **Online Sunday Services**

Our online Sunday services will continue to be available from 10.30am on the parish website ([bchurch.co.uk](http://bchurch.co.uk)), facebook, youtube, and the 'dial-in' number 028 4040 0345.

## **Youth and Children's Ministry**

Our online Kids programme is available on the website and Facebook each Sunday from 11.30am. Ava is currently working on a video for the Easter Sunday School/Space programme. Please contact Ava if your child would like to be part of it.

After Easter, Youth Bible studies will resume, and hopefully, be able to meet in person in the near future.

## **Easter Vestry Service on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 7.30pm**

This year we will have a service to thank God for his faithfulness in the past and pray for his guidance and help as we look to the future. The service will conclude with a short Easter Vestry meeting, which includes the election of the vestry for this year.

## **Pastoral Care and Support**

Please contact me or the Parish Office (028 4062 2744/info@bchurch.co.uk) if you, or someone you know, need help or support, or phone me (028 4062 2612 or 07933096720) if you would like to talk or would like someone to pray with you.