



Hello everyone,

Thank goodness for such a sunny September so for once a good number of my outdoor tomatoes have ripened and the beans are still doing well. We also had sunshine for Revd Theresa's ordination – see over for the photos. The YouTube version will be available very soon so for those who have access let's watch it at home (we may even be able to offer some the chance to watch it in the Pastoral Centre Concert Hall) then dress-up and zoom-in on Saturday 24th October at 5pm to raise our glasses to Theresa.

The attendance at the Holy Communion service in church on Sundays is heading towards 30 most weeks with another 20 or so joining via zoom. The latter is proving somewhat challenging with sound and picture of variable quality depending on which method we attempt. Please be patient as we continue to tweak things. We are getting into a good rhythm with the Sunday School service in the Pastoral Centre and it is virtually full each week. In order to ventilate our buildings we are having to keep doors open more than usual so do wrap up warmly if you come to services.

The previous pack included notification of our Annual Meetings to be held at 9.30am on Sunday 18th October within worship and via zoom. We are now working on the challenge of the mechanics of this in order to keep you all as informed as possible as well as conduct it legally! Within this pack please find the essential papers and if you are attending in person please bring them with you or, if at home, have them handy. If you plan to attend in person you will need to book a ticket as normal for the Sunday Service.

This pack also includes the Order of Service for the funeral of Clare Blackshaw. Look out for it on our YouTube channel very soon. Clare has been a much-loved member of St Laurence Church for over 5 decades. Until lockdown she was teaching in Sunday School and singing in the choir as well as being a strong supporter of Churches Together in Northfield, especially Community Christmas. In the early months of lockdown she could be seen walking the parish at her usual brisk pace, pulling her lilac trolley and probably on her way to deliver groceries to someone who was shielding. During the summer she became increasingly unwell and was eventually admitted to hospital in August. She was diagnosed with terminal cancer and died peacefully in St Mary's Hospice.

It is with sadness that we have just learnt of the death of former Rector, The Revd David Collyer. May they both rest in peace and rise in glory.

Normally, around All Souls' Day we hold a special service in church and read out the names of all those who have died in the past year. We are currently thinking how we can do things this year, as well as how we mark Remembrance Sunday and have Christmas services. Do keep an eye on the weekly notices which come out via e-mail and if you are not on e-mail keep in touch with someone who is (let Theresa know if you need a partner for this.)

But for now we are approaching Harvest Thanksgiving. The church will be decorated though perhaps not as fulsomely as in previous years. As usual we are inviting donations of tins and packets for local food banks and Clare's lilac trolley will be pressed into service to deliver at least some of them to the Food Bank at Northfield Community Partnership offices. They can be dropped off at services or at Private Prayer on Saturdays throughout October. There will also be the chance to donate to Christian Aid. They have launched the facility for personalised church donation pages and we're hoping to put together our promotional video later this week and from 3 different places! Who would have thought we would be doing all this a year ago?

May God continue to give us strength to rise to challenges before us as well as heaps of patience, kindness and humour.

Thank you for all you are doing to keep in touch with one another and support one another. It makes such a difference.

*Keep safe and well,
Canon Janet*

29th September 2020



Theresa's Ordination
Saturday 19th September

We had a wonderful day on Saturday. The sun shone and the Cathedral was serene and peaceful amidst the noise of the city outside. Although there were ten being ordained deacon we were split into small groups, and I was blessed to be ordained alongside three others who I had trained with at The Queen's Foundation. There were only thirty of us in the Cathedral, and despite all being very well spaced-out it felt intimate and personal. It was a beautiful, Spirit-filled occasion.



Thank you
for all your prayers
and warm wishes.