



- Showing love
- Giving hope
- Bringing peace

The Church of St John & St Leonard

6th January 2021

Warmest greetings, my brothers and sisters in Christ.

You are all very much in my prayers, I really hope that you are doing as well as you can be given the current circumstances.

I was at a Deanery meeting of clergy and readers this afternoon and Archdeacon Dave encouraged us to re-read the book of Philippians as we embark on yet another period of lockdown and the inevitable changes that entails. As I was reading Philippians this evening, I was struck by these verses from chapter 4:

⁸Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

My prayer for all of us in these uncertain and testing times is that, as we seek God, his peace will surround each one of us and that he will strengthen us for all of the challenges we currently face.

Update on worship

In light of the current lockdown and the rapidly increasing infection rates in Bedford, the Standing Committee has spent time this week thinking and praying about what we need to do in order to keep people safe and we have decided that:

Sunday worship

Sunday worship will be on **zoom only** (not in Church) on Sunday 10th and Sunday 17th January. We will then have a discussion at the next PCC meeting and make a decision about Sunday worship for the remainder of the lockdown period.

Wednesday 2pm service

The Wednesday afternoon service will be suspended until further notice – reflections will be sent out on a Wednesday and a Sunday by email and post as we have been doing.

Sunday School

Sunday school will be suspended until at least Sunday 21st February in line with the closure of schools. We will be reviewing this at half term and will publish an update at that point.

I am aware that there will be a mixture of reactions to these decisions. For some this will be welcome news, for others this will be very hard to hear. Please know that these decisions have not been made lightly. If you would like to talk this through at all please do get in touch with me and I would be very happy to talk more.

Stay safe and take care

Every blessing

Vicki