

Dear Friends,

As we enter this new period of lockdown and with all the other things happening in the world, it's good to remember that God hasn't gone into lockdown.

Last night we took part in the Archdeacon's visitation Service, via Zoom, where we were sworn in as churchwardens and one of the things we were reminded of was that "We are Good News People." The Archdeacon based his talk on Psalm 126 which begins with the people remembering times of celebration, "Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy.....The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy." The second half of the psalm includes a plea for God to restore their fortunes,(v.4) as they looked forward with hope from the difficulties of the present. "Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seeds to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him. "It seemed very relevant

Remembering times when we have been very conscious of God's presence and help can be a great encouragement when we are struggling. We would love to hear any stories of encouragement that we could share in these weekly letters. Just this week we have received two cards through the letter box from people letting us know that they are thinking of us and praying for us and we are thankful to God and encouraged to know we don't need to do things in our own strength.

This week the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have called on the church to pray for the nation throughout lockdown, for our nation, its leaders, its health and essential services and all those who suffer. They suggest earmarking **6pm on Thursday evenings** as a special focus for prayer. More details in the attachment below and there is also a wealth of ideas on the Church of England website and the Diocese of Sheffield Website.

Thank you to all who responded to the request from the Grace Foodbank a couple of weeks ago for tins of tomatoes and sweetcorn. They have sent an interesting account of what they did to support families over half term which is attached. They are now planning for Christmas. I will include more details later but if you would like to start gathering extra treats when you are shopping they will need the usual things like Christmas chocolates, medium or small boxes of chocolate biscuits etc.

Just a reminder that we are not able to meet in church during lockdown but the Remembrance Sunday service is being streamed live on the church website at 10.15.

Finally, Angela has been asked if anyone might have any old photographs from the 1930s of the end of the church where the crypt and the foundation stone are, showing the original iron railings. Please let her know if you can help.

With love from,

James & Ann.