

Dear Friends

We could not have imagined almost 7 months ago, after writing our first newsletter, that life would not have returned to something more akin to normal. It just goes to show how little we understood in the early days of the pandemic. Although the situation is by no means under control, we are at least beginning to understand what we need to do to keep ourselves as safe as we can. This has, inevitably, changed the way we behave, not least the way we worship. If you have not yet been to church and are thinking about it, please be assured that all safety measures are in place and seem to be working well. We also have the QR code which works with the NHS COVID 19 app on phones along with our own records of attendance so that if we need to contact people we can do. This Sunday will be mainly given over to our AGM although there will be a short act of worship before the business meeting. Hopefully you have read the Annual report which was sent to you last week. We are unable to distribute paper copies in church but you are welcome to bring your copy either a digital or paper copy if you wish to refer to it.



Please remember you can address any questions to Chris Musther or either of us. There will be no need at the moment to carry out a ballot for any vacancies for the PCC or churchwarden posts, unless there is a sudden influx of nominations. We all have a part to play in the life of the church and we ask that you continue to prayerfully consider if you are called to a particular role. If you are unable to join us, please pray for all who are involved in arranging this meeting and for the new PCC and wardens.

Ken and Vivien Filluel have asked us to thank everyone for their cards, presents and good wishes for their diamond wedding which was on September 17th. They had sent thanks earlier but due to the wonders of technology it did not reach us, so apologies that this thank you has been delayed.

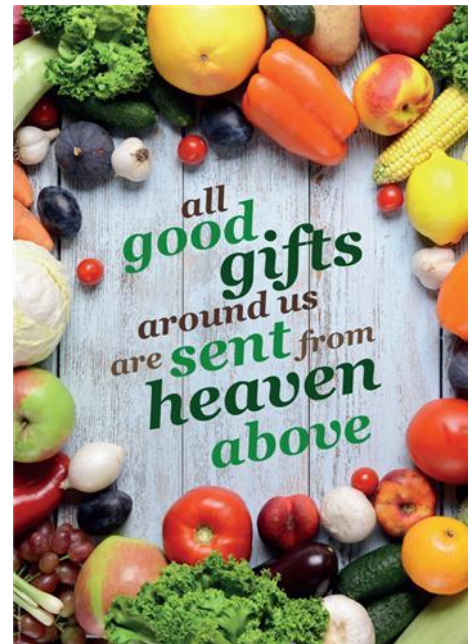
The Diocesan Development Day on the theme of 'Lights for Christ - Bringing Hope' **this Saturday 10 October 9.30 – 12.30** With restrictions on gatherings still in place, a decision has been taken to run this as a virtual Development Day event using Zoom. The keynote input will be from Ruth Valerio the author of 'Saying Yes to Life', the Archbishop of Canterbury's 2020 Lent book, and Global Advocacy and Influencing Director for TearFund. She will help us to reflect on how as Lights for Christ we respond to climate change. Bishop Pete will be helping us think about our Hope in Christ and Bishop Sophie will focus on Sharing our Hope with Others. Details of how to book to join in can be found at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/development-day-2020-lights-for-christ-bringing-hope-tickets-118484537441> or on the Diocesan website.



It's such a shame that we haven't been able to celebrate Harvest in church this year. It's one of my favourite services; the church is always decorated beautifully and smells so nice. All our gifts are piled up round the altar remind us how fortunate we are, and how good our God is to us. It's our chance to give something back and we usually share our donations between the Grace Food Bank and the Cathedral Archer Project. Both organisations are going to really feel the loss of, not only our gifts, but of the other churches as well. Fortunately, we are still able to give thanks to God by sending monetary donations, either by post or on line. The postal addresses are:

The Grace Food Bank, 240 Lowedges Road, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S8 7JB Online: <https://gracefoodbanksheffield.org.uk/>

Cathedral Archer Project, Sheffield Cathedral, Church Street, Sheffield, S1 1HA <https://www.archerproject.org.uk/>



Writing on a gloomy autumn morning, as the rain pours down and the prospect of further restrictions looms large, I was sent the following picture and bible verse which immediately reminded me that even in the midst of darkness there is hope.



'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.'
John 1:5

As we look to our AGM may these words remind us all, that even though life is difficult and as a church family we have had to deal with many of these difficulties together, our hope is sure and certain and God is with us no matter what. On Sunday a new PCC and churchwardens will be elected and they will face new challenges but with our prayers and support All Saints will shine as a beacon of hope in our community and beyond.

With love
Liz and Angela