

Dear Friends,

Well, we've had the annual meeting and find ourselves as Church Wardens, realising it's a steep learning curve at the moment but willing to do our best to serve in the role with God's help and your support. We are grateful to the people who have already offered help and to Angela and Liz for the wealth of information they have recorded to pass on, plus the huge bunch of keys!

Not all the vacancies on the PCC were filled but Claire Rose joins us as an ex officio member in her role as Lay Reader and Ed Deakin, Ian Halliday and Geoffrey Nixon were all re-elected. Our thanks to Celia Naisby, who did not wish to stand for a further 3 years but continues with her responsibilities for the church hall and liaising with the cleaners.

Several of us were able to join in the Diocesan Development Day last Saturday online and had an interesting morning. Hopefully we will be able to provide links to the talks in due course.

We have been told that the latest Covid restrictions do not affect our ability to hold worship services in church BUT we must make sure that we maintain the 2 metre distance between people and also not congregate in groups of more than 6. The tricky bit is after the service when the natural thing is to want to chat. We are fortunate to have plenty of space outdoors so we suggest that we try to leave the area round the steps and the main door clear as a thoroughfare and spread out in the rest of the grounds to catch up with each other.

The latest newsletter from the Grace Foodbank includes a plea for tins of tomatoes and sweetcorn. They are getting ready for the half term healthy holiday provision and need over 400 tins of tomatoes! They have money to buy them but are finding it difficult to buy in bulk again. I will leave a box outside church on Sunday and deliver to the Foodbank on Monday if you are able to spare a can.

Sunday 18th is St Luke's Day and traditionally a time to pray for medical staff and healthcare workers. This year, more than ever, we need to pray for all those working in hospitals and care homes and community care. Many have not had chance to recover from the start of the pandemic and it must be a daunting prospect to see cases increasing as they are.

During the Diocesan Development Day on Saturday we had a few minutes in small groups and one of the questions was "What helps you to hope in God?" You might like to think about that during the week. It could even be useful preparation should someone ask you about your faith or how you are coping.

We would be grateful for your prayers and send our love,

Ann & James