

Sunday 28 June 2020

3rd Sunday after Trinity / Peter & Paul

Fr David reflects...

I wonder how much more reflecting there is to be. With news of church buildings being permitted to re-open for services many people will be looking forward to being once more in the sacred spaces of our much-loved church buildings. Another 'new normal' will be upon us although, perhaps not for long until it's replaced by a *new new normal*.

For several in our communities whether or not our church buildings are open won't make much difference. Those who are still isolating, shielding, or just not taking the risk, will carry on their lives at home in safety and certainty.

In reflecting, admittedly quiet a bit, over the last 3+ months, I have, on the whole, been really *really* excited for the Church. *Church* has taken on a radically new meaning for many people and we have proved, for ourselves, that we are not at all bound by structures of buildings, regardless of how beautiful, peaceful and inspiring they might be. We want to be back in the buildings to absorb and add to the prayer and holiness of past generations but so that we might *really* be fuelled and inspired, equipped and resourced to return to *be* the Church in our communities.

Those of us who have been able to engage with on-line resources during the pandemic have begun to resource ourselves, quite seriously, with daily prayer and worship, with talking about our faith and in study through our Bible Course. I can't help but feel that we are growing a strong and healthy core to what church could be like in the near-present and future.

When we do return to some form of communal life as the Church it won't just be about rejoicing and giving thanks. There will be much to come to terms with – losses and sadness, the effects of loneliness and isolation, fragility and uncertainty. Church not being as it was 4 months ago probably won't help that much at first. During lockdown, though, I am confident that we have all grown and changed in some way. Now the Church must change and adapt to and embrace the challenges which God has given us.

In the coming weeks and months, we must continue to include and support those who can't come physically to join us for services. We must continue to develop strong, positive relationships with all our on-line as well as physical congregations. We must continue to use our own resources to equip the Church for ministry and we must trust God's providence that we always have more than we need to fulfil all the work we are given.

Let's get on!