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6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Friends

Some words from a letter sent by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York earlier this week:

*A second lockdown will be upon us on Thursday. It is going to be different from the first one. The days are getting shorter and colder. We are anxious for ourselves, for those we love, especially those who are vulnerable and elderly, and for our families. We know that this pandemic is having a devastating effect on our economy and on people's mental health. Thousands of people are dying. The National Health Service is being stretched to the limit. We also know and must continue to bear witness to the fact that the poorest communities in our nation are suffering the most. We are in for a long haul. It is going to be a hard winter.....*

*Bearing in mind our primary vocation as the Church of Jesus Christ to pray and to serve **we call upon the Church of England to make this month of lockdown a month of prayer.***

*More than anything else, whatever the nation thinks, we know that we are in the faithful hands of the risen Christ who knows our weaknesses, tiredness and struggles and whose steadfast love endures for ever...*

*In one of the climactic passages of the New Testament, Paul says to those who follow Christ that their "love must be genuine, that they hate what is evil and hold fast to what is good." He asks them to "serve the Lord", exhorting them to "rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers." (See Romans 12.9-12.) None of this is easy. Especially not at the moment. But it is our calling.*

I have just been reading an article in the newspaper about an actor who stars in one of a five part series which starts on BBC1 on Sunday. Towards the end of the interview Malachi Kirby is asked, 'Are you in a relationship?' He replies, 'Yes' and goes on to say 'I'm in a relationship with God.'

After much searching, he put his trust in God, and then he went trying to find a church. Eventually he found what he was looking for. He says his faith is more than dogma or denomination. 'There is a genuine love there,' he explains. 'Not a Sunday-in-church love, but I'm-gonna-call-you-on-Monday-and-check-how-you-are love.' Malachi has discovered the touchstone of a church following Jesus faithfully. It's about practical caring and love, and looking out for one another.

## **NEWS**

At the recent APCM Terry van Eker and Alistair Fletcher were elected church wardens. I am extremely grateful to them both, as well to Brian Ricketts, the retiring warden. Please pray for our wardens.

The pumpkin trail and parties were a great success! Many thanks to Lorraine Fletcher and her team for organising it.

## **A SUNDAY MORNING CUP OF COFFEE ... WITH FRIENDS!**

Are you missing that Sunday morning cup of tea/coffee and chat with friends after the Sunday morning service? Starting next Sunday (15th Nov) at 11:30am, we are introducing an opportunity to gather together on Zoom over a cup of tea or coffee after the 10:30am YouTube service has finished. If you would like to join us, then email Julia Pratt ([curate@stpeters-woolton.org.uk](mailto:curate@stpeters-woolton.org.uk)), noting "Coffee" in the subject line of your email.

## **NOTICEBOARD** – *see the website for details of many of these events*

The Archbishops' call to pray for the nation

Prayer journal 'Talking with God'

St Peter's monthly prayer meeting starting next Saturday

Remembrance Sunday – a special service online, and a prayer walk through the churchyard (starting Sunday afternoon).

Reading the Bible this Advent and Christmas – order your booklet!

## And finally **A PLEA FOR HELP!**

Are you interested in seeing St Peter's continue their online services? We are looking for someone to join the team that creates these videos, specifically to edit the different elements together. You will need a PC or Laptop with some form of video editing software. You will be editing the service a minimum of once per month. If you're interested in doing this or if you want to ask any questions, please contact Tim Farmer on 07507569846.

## **A FAMILY PRAYER**

Loving God, you know us and all that we are facing.

We thank you that we can come to you as we are with all our fears and concerns, our difficulties and challenges.

Please draw close to each of us and those we remember before you now.

Bring to us your peace and comfort.

And fill us with your Spirit that we may be bearers of your grace and hope to others.

As a country protect us, encourage us and keep us.

In the name of your Son Jesus we pray. Amen.

With my love and prayers,

Kip