

Dear Friends

May 21st

I wonder what have been your preoccupations as we move from spring to summer and from Eastertide into the season of Trinity?

They may have been with family – as the difficulties of separation grow and phone calls or Zoom meetings become increasingly less satisfactory along with the feeling that they simply cannot replace a ‘proper’ meeting. It may be that you have been lucky enough to meet a member of your family for a distanced walk – or that someone has come to stand in your front garden. Visits that maybe we once took for granted have become a precious thing! It occurs to me that this is almost the opposite of Ascension when, after having been surprised by meeting the risen Jesus after Easter the disciples know that they are saying goodbye for the last time. As we begin to say our first live ‘hello’s’ let’s make them moments to treasure and remember just how precious they are.

For some people either having a bit more time on their hands or the opportunity to do things in a different way has made them think differently about faith and life. For many people it has been an opportunity to connect with their past – I was highly amused by an item on Radio 2 around whether in reviewing your life you should / would phone up rejected past loves – opinion (and experience) seemed to be divided! I certainly enjoyed a catch up on line with 20 ex school-friends which represented about 2/3 of 1967’s IIIA! In cases like this even though the connections are virtual we have had our eyes opened to the value of virtual communication – something which the grandparents of overseas children understood long before us!

We always understood – and do so rather more at present – that communication is important and that the medium really can affect the message! Sometimes a phone call is much better than an email, Zoom services have a real benefit for those wanting to feel part of a community but can seem noisy to others, ‘bring your own’ coffee to the computer mornings are nowhere near as lovely as the real thing but they may be better than nothing.

Just as it is important to keep communicating with one another in these unusual times it is important to keep communicating with God. As we remember the disciples saying their final farewell to Jesus it might be good to recall his words “You don’t get to know the time. Timing is the Father’s business. What you’ll get is the Holy Spirit.” It is the Spirit who is at the heart of our communication with God and our understanding of Gods purposes – the spirit is like the wind that blows wherever it likes. Our prayer is for an openness to the Spirit as individuals and in community.

Rev Sue

On behalf of the Clergy Team

P.S. I’ve been asked to let Dorchester residents know that the Tea room is open on Saturdays for collection and delivery of cakes. You can order on Facebook – the Tea room has its own page – or phone 340007 to be put in touch with the organisers.