



Abington Pastoral Letter No.33 3.11.2020

Dear Friends

Lockdown and Remembrance Sunday

Good morning. Firstly apologies for my email appearing again from the start of the day. I hope you will understand that I am trying to communicate with you as clearly and often as possible in these difficult times.

Thank you all who shared their views with me on lockdown and what happens from Thursday. Clearly this is a subject that many people feel strongly about in either way. I hear both views and there is no easy answer.

Since March this year, we have seen high levels of anxiety and stress in many parts of our lives. Once again, it is more important than ever that we, as Christians and followers of Christ, become the calming and caring presence to our community and to our neighbours. We can disagree and still care for each other and pray for each other.

Now on Remembrance Sunday, I imagine that each local authorities and churches may have slightly different approaches on this depending on further guidelines that will come at some point. I don't really know what the guidelines will say but I cannot imagine us gathering in a full scale in the churchyard for Remembrance Sunday. It wouldn't set a good example to our neighbours. Gathering in a small scale will also be difficult because setting up the churchyard for an outdoor service, no matter how small it might be, takes a lot of effort and work force. We also have a chance of rain on Sunday morning.

Given all that, I think we should stick with our plan for an online only service on this Remembrance Sunday on 8th November.

I am going to video record poppies being planted around our Remembrance Art on Wednesday

at 2 pm. This can then be shown during the service on Sunday. I am hoping to involve a few members of representatives from the NHS and from the community for this. If you would like to take part in this, then please do let me know by tomorrow morning. This way we can still honour and remember the sacrifice. We can also leave something as a record for our future generations to see what sacrifices we had to make and how we continued to give thanks to God and to each other in the pandemic.

Friends, you have been FANTASTIC, looking after the vulnerable, the elderly, the lonely when many turned to focus on self-preservation. You are a child of God and a chosen disciple of Christ to carry His light in these dark times.

With love in Christ

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