

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY during July/August – 'LOCKDOWN 1' 2020

July 7th – Reopening Church



At Church council last night it was decided that the Thursday 10am Service should restart from July 16th. This will be in the church hall, access via the front doors, and we will implement social distancing. If you would like to come do let me know as we will have a maximum capacity and I would hate to have to turn people away at the door. We are aiming to restart Sunday worship on 2nd August and this will also be available on zoom for those who wish to continue isolation for the sake of their health.

How some have reacted to the reopening of churches

reminds me of the verse 'do not give up the habit of meeting together, as some have done'.

It always reminds me of a coal fire, where sometimes a coal would drop out onto the hearth and grow cold.

July 14th Giving

My phone rang many times yesterday! Not unusual for a vicarage phone but this was more than



usual and most of the calls were ones of thanks, no, profuse thanks for the cream teas that St Mark's and Merland Rise churches delivered to about 200 people in the community on Saturday. It is amazing how such a small gift has had such a marked impact. Why not spread a little happiness yourself by calling someone or dropping them a card. I got a card in the post today to say thanks for the cream tea and I was so touched I want to thank them for thanking us - this could lead to a long series of thank yous!

Earlier in the year I sent a letter requesting financial help as St Mark's is losing a lot of income because we can't hire out the hall.

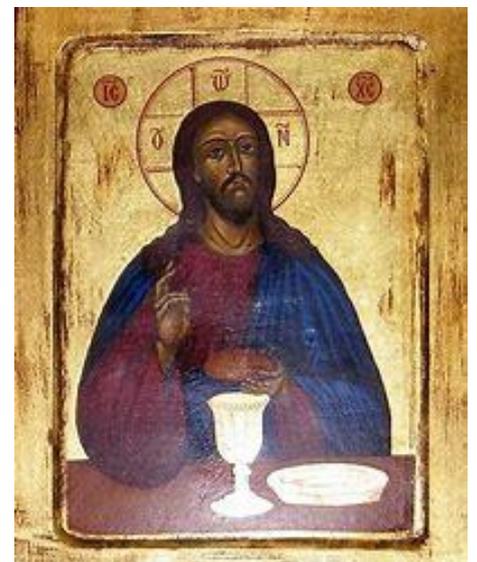
Some people requested details for our [giving page](#) but we didn't have one. Now we do - if you would like to make any donations to help us out then click this [link](#).

July 21st – Zoom Communion

I thought I'd share a bit of theology with you today! - Go on, I dare you to read this rather than delete it!!

There has been various discussion about Communion/Mass/Eucharist due to churches holding services by zoom. The problem is that people think the priest has to be present during Communion and therefore people eating the bread and wine at home are not actually having Communion. Some churches 'solve' this by the priest eating his/her bread on behalf of the congregation while they watch. I am rather taken by the words of Jesus *'whenever you eat this bread and drink this wine, do it in memory of me'*.

Who is the you?



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I presume it to be the church or Jesus' followers because that is who it is directed at in Paul's letter and in the Gospels. I can't help but wonder, if we are invited to 'The Lord's Supper' (another name for Communion) then surely Jesus is the priest (or president as is also used) and he is not limited geographically i.e. He is in every home not just hanging on the shoulders of ordained person.

What do you think?

Des

July 25th – "Windy Spirit"



Heather and I went hill walking yesterday and were thoroughly windswept by the end of our walk up to Devil's Dyke. We had been listening to a book in the car and the author spoke of the 'windy Spirit' blowing wherever it wants. I was thinking of 'spiritual wind' as an alternative to 'windy Spirit'. Some say there is a new spiritual awareness in the country as new people are attending online church.

I used to be of the opinion that the Church just got in people's way of finding God - I changed my opinion several years ago and ended up getting ordained as a result. During this time of 'virtual church' and some of the theological discussions I do wonder what God makes of some of the declarations from church hierarchy about what is and isn't allowed!

What new ideas has the 'windy Spirit' been blowing into your windswept mind during this 'spiritual wind'?

Des

Aug 1st - Sunday Worship



You are probably aware that Sunday Worship at St Mark's will resume tomorrow. Both the Government and the Church of England 'highly recommend' the wearing of face masks for those attending; indeed the following week it will be mandatory. So if you plan to come join us do bring and wear a mask. We will be serving coffee and tea afterwards but this will be outside on the patio area at the front of Church to make social distancing easier.

I was struck by the Prime-minister's address where he listed various places that masks should be worn. He explained that these were places you would meet strangers, e.g. restaurants, pubs, shops and places of worship. While I understand what he means I did think it sad that his idea of church is a place where strangers meet! The times may be stranger than normal but the people are certainly not! Church is a place where no one is a stranger, even people we don't know are friends in the making.

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