

Dear Grayshott,

August 2020

With Schools back, and some aspects of life having opened up, it is still a very challenging time. We are all trying to survive in a narrower space, and the horizon feels far nearer than ever before in our lifetimes. It is difficult to plan, but I am enormously proud of our local schools for the way they have responded to the challenge of getting education and their communities working for the sake of their pupils.

Archbishop Justin Welby recently wrote about the balance between central Government and local control. The more centralised the control, the blunter the tools tend to be. I worked as an IT trainer teaching users of Enterprise wide software; when implementing a new system, there was always a compromise between changing the organisation to fit the software, or changing the software to fit the organisation, real life did not always fit the rigid central system.

The beauty of the 'local', and small, is that we can respond to the real needs of individuals who suffer the trauma of big central decisions. I am not saying that we haven't needed the national and global response, but want to point us to the necessity of considering the small and the local. The parish system of the Church of England has always recognised the value of having someone on the ground to respond to the immediate and local needs, and we are here to be your church, and I am here to be your vicar.

I am thrilled to see that this magazine is packed with wonderful articles celebrating the local, and recently I saw that Phil Bates (who built up Grayshott Pottery), has an exhibition of his art work. We are blessed to have so much to celebrate, and to keep us positive and grounded.

Jesus' Parables of the Kingdom of Heaven use pictures of seeds, yeast, vines and familiar images to show how God's blessing can cause small things grow into big things, blessing many. Let us keep positive, and continue to focus on our neighbours in our care and loving. We invite you all to our services both in-person, and on St Luke's YouTube Channel.

Jeremy and Claire,

Rev. Jeremy Haswell, Vicar of St Luke's