

Dear Grayshott,

September 2020

Autumn is here! ...after what feels like the longest summer ever, Covid-19 is dragging on and on. None of us wanted to accept that we would be talking of second spikes, or 'learning to live with it'. The Health, Economic and Educational impacts are emerging, industries, the high-street, and jobs are being lost, and our hearts go out to those who have been either directly or indirectly affected.

It has been strange in the midst of all of this to have had V-J day, when the pain and suffering of the soldiers and prisoners of war of the so-called: 'forgotten fourteenth army' were remembered in moving ceremonies. I remember visiting Kanchanaburi war memorial myself, for the soldiers building the death railway, and being deeply moved by row on row of 19 year old soldiers' gravestones, all only a few years younger than me at the time. Calibrating experiences, and comparing them is impossible, but those who have had to rebuild their lives having survived and returned, would say that we are very resilient, when we pull together, and with love, we can endure some terrible extremes.

In the village, I am delighted that St Luke's is open for some worship, the Fox and Pelican has returned rejuvenated and so positive after their refurbishment, congratulations to Lauren and her team. Many thanks to Mrs Pritchard and her staff at Grayshott School for their enormous efforts to support key workers' children through the summer, and for their work in enabling as many pupils as possible to come back to school; as well as all their support of parents trying to maintain learning momentum for their children at home, (please see her article). Another big thank you to the Local Covid-19 Support group who have been simply amazing, and thank you and farewell to Laura Musco who is retiring after 10 years working for the Parish Council.

Jesus said in John 13:34; "A new commandment I give you: Love one another, as I have loved you." An atmosphere of love and support will keep us resilient and re-building, as we also encourage our younger generations to be strong and creative, to build a positive future, whatever their exam results or personal circumstance, and to find a way through. With love from us at St Luke's. Do join us for worship and keep well,

Jeremy and Claire,

Reverend Jeremy Haswell, Vicar of St Luke's