



Hello everyone,

Well, hasn't it been another week of unsettling news, lots of changes and people offering opinions! Did you, like me, have a sinking in your heart as they announced another lockdown? I'm sure, like me, you can see the sense behind it and the reasons for it, but I'm also sure that on a personal level lockdown brings with it all sorts of questions and emotions as we face another month of less opportunities for contact with others.

In my sermon last week for All Saints Day, which I have adapted for this week's mailing, I talked about the gospel of hope that we claim we have as Christians and what that hope might be for us in this time of lockdown and uncertainty. I do hope (that word again) that it encourages you to think about where your hope is found and how your faith might inspire hope at this time.

Of course it is Remembrance Sunday this week and many will be disappointed not to be part of an Act of Remembrance, however I invite you to use the provided liturgy in your own Act of Remembrance, if that would be helpful to you, knowing that many others will be doing the same at 11am on Sunday 8th, and also 11am on Wednesday 11th. Wreaths will be laid at each of our 4 churches by individuals who will pause for a moment to remember those who gave their lives that we might know the freedoms we enjoy today.

As you will be aware, the government has stated that places of worship are to be closed except for individual prayer and funerals. Therefore, until 3rd December, we are unable to hold Sunday or midweek services in our church buildings. Once again we rely on these weekly mailings and online worship for those that are able and would like to join. We hope that you find the mailings comforting and helpful, but if not, and you would rather not receive them, please do just let us know and we will take your name off the list.

We are hoping to produce an edition of Teamtalk at the end of this month, although with administrators furloughed for yet another month (Fiona works 8 hours a week, which is mainly filled with finance administration and keeping up to date with emails and phone enquiries) we will not be able to print as many copies. We hope to send you a copy when it is printed and produce some to be delivered. If you would like to contribute to the magazine this edition then please do! However we will need your submission by Tuesday 10th November in order for Jenny to include it in the final edit.

Perhaps some of you have noticed the doves hanging outside our churches in remembrance of those who have died. We will be adding poppies to these displays in the coming days as an act of remembrance for those who have died in war. Please do go and have a look if you are taking a walk.

We know that for many of you the uncertainty and anxiety about lockdown restrictions and health continues. We want to continue to remind you that we are here for you. If you find you need a chat, prayer, or some practical help then do reach out – either by phoning 01432 273086 or by contacting your Pastoral Coordinator.

We hope these resources help you feel connected as we worship as a scattered Church. Please be assured that you are not forgotten and that you are remembered in our prayers – and that we long for the day when we can meet again as the whole church in one body and one place.

God Bless,  
Ruth and Jo