



The West Hereford Team Ministry  
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Happy New Year, everyone,

I wonder whether it does feel 'happy'? Whether there is hope to be found?

I write this the morning after Boris Johnson announced that the country would be entering into a third lockdown. I wonder what the ongoing effect is for you personally, for your family, for your community?

I had a conversation this morning with a member of our churches. We were talking about what would replace the angels and stars on our crosses outside churches now that we have entered a new season. We are thinking about Question Marks for all the questions that people have this new year, but also Butterflies that have become a symbol of new life and new hope. When I suggested butterflies, this person said to me,

“because no matter how many questions we have, we know this *will* come to an end. And when it does, things may not be the same as they were before, they may be different and we may be different, but that doesn't mean they won't be beautifully different. We have questions, but we also have hope. That is our faith!”

I couldn't have put it better myself, “we may have questions, we may end up different, but that doesn't mean we won't be beautifully different. That is our faith and our hope!”

So whether you feel it really is a 'happy' new year or not, I pray that you find hope in your faith, in God's constant love shown in Jesus, and in the knowledge that this situation we find ourselves in, this too shall pass.

#### **Church services:**

We had already planned a Team PCC meeting this Thursday, 7th, to discuss the opening of our church buildings as cases rise locally, and the lockdown announcement has made this meeting and decision even more important. Unfortunately that meeting will happen too late for me to write the decision here. However, I can tell you that I will be recommending that Sunday services are suspended with immediate effect, but that we hold a midweek service at St Nicholas' on a Wednesday at 10.00am for those for whom receiving a weekly communion is extremely important to their faith and spiritual discipline.

If the decision made on Thursday is any different, someone will be in touch before Sunday to let you know. If you do not hear anything, please assume that there will be no in person service this Sunday. Thank you for your patience in this.

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 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.

God Bless,

Ruth and Jo