

Dear Friends

Well, it's official! I am now legally your Rector. Last Sunday, Bishop John officiated at my service of Institution, Induction and Installation. It was a lovely service with members of the congregations of both Corley and Fillongley present, along with the Headteacher of Bournebrook School, Mrs Patchett. The Lay Chair of Nuneaton Deanery, David Spiers and Archdeacon Barry Dugmore. Despite the restricted numbers allowed, it felt like the 'great cloud of witnesses' were definitely present. I am so very grateful for all your prayers and good wishes – thank you.

There is more excitement for me this week, as God willing, we move into Fillongley vicarage. It has taken a little while longer than we had expected, but we are very much looking forward to being part of the village communities.

October is going to continue to be a busy month with the Annual Church Meetings at both churches. Normally we hold the APCM before the end of April, but as with so many things this year, Coronavirus has meant that they have been delayed. The APCM is a time to reflect on the year that has passed and to look forward to the year to come. It is an opportunity to elect members of the Church Council and to receive reports from different groups within the church. If you would like to be involved with the leadership of your church then why don't you come along to the meeting and get involved? The details of the meetings are as follows and everyone is welcome.

Monday 12th October, 7.30pm, St Mary and All Saints Church, Fillongley

Sunday 25th October, 11.30am, The Parish Church, Corley (after the service of Holy Communion)

On the 18th October we will be celebrating Harvest at Fillongley. The plan is, weather permitting, to hold an outdoor harvest Holy Communion service. There is something so very special about giving thanks to the God of creation in the outdoors. If you would like to attend then you will need to bring a garden chair and maybe a blanket too. If you are able, you might like to bring along a gift of food to donate to the foodbank or maybe some home-grown produce that we could auction after the service. The service at Corley at the end of September was chilly but very beautiful. Let's all pray that God sends us a bright sunny day to gather and give thanks.

Looking further forward, we enter the season of remembering. At the beginning of November, we will be holding a special service on All Souls Day, where we remember all those that we have loved and lost. Then the following Sunday is Remembrance Sunday. There will be services at Fillongley in the morning and Corley in the afternoon. Two open-air opportunities to remember and pay our respects to those whose service bought our freedom. Then before we know it, it will be the season of Advent.

Whilst we are all hoping and praying that Coronavirus will pass soon, the reality is that we will probably have to celebrate our festivals a little differently this year. I'm afraid that social distancing and restricted numbers in our churches will be the norm for some time to come.

But the one thing that doesn't change is the love of God expressed through Jesus Christ. However we celebrate, indoors or outdoors, in church or at home or online, God will be with us. God our present comfort and our hope for the future.

As always, if I or any of the team can be of any help, then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

With love and prayers

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