

# Voice from the Vicarage 12th July 2021

Dear All,

Yesterday, Deacon Jack and I did a little 'Lectio Divina' on a passage from Paul's letter to the Philippians. (Ch 3 : 7-14) Dn. Jack spoke of the joy that he sensed from the text, a joy in the heart of Paul, who with a surprising austerity dismisses everything else as like 'rubbish' in comparison to the benefit of knowing Christ Jesus as his Lord.

It seems to me this is all the more impressive given that Paul writes this 'letter of Joy', as Philippians is sometimes known, from a prison cell. So it's perhaps a bit instructive as we all live with this time of 'lockup'. It's a reminder and encouragement to me to look unto Jesus as the reliable loving 'possession' in my life. To know him, is to be set free.

Something of this was expressed so well in the Communion hymn last Sunday. Those of you who shared in the service may remember that I drew it to your attention and offered it as our corporate encouragement for the week:

*'Safe in the shadow of the Lord, possessed by love divine. I trust in him, I trust in him, and meet his love with mine'.*

*and so made into a prayer...*

**Lord, I trust in you. I trust in you, and meet your love with mine...**

None of this is to minimise the terrible cost of lock down, costs at so many levels, and different for each of us, but it is to say that we will try to see it, experience it all, 'through Jesus Christ our Lord', putting Jesus in the forefront of our minds and hearts at all times, looking for him with the eye of our heart.

*Gee, it can be hard to keep on...*

Well the extension of the lockdown is a disappointment to say the very least. It means that our Sunday worship will again be 'online'. Somehow I think developing a lockdown 'discipline' is more difficult as time goes by, in the fits and starts of the more recent times of constraint. In the first lockdown there seemed to be something of a 'Dunkirk' spirit. We all made our small corners, a goodly number collected the sacrament, and more folk actually formed the discipline of tuning in to our website or You tube at 10 am. Strangely enough, or perhaps not, I have found myself even listless and lacking enthusiasm for things I generally enjoy doing. Anyway, we must keep on.....So my advice to you I am also giving to myself! Keep on!

*Well, one thing certainly does keep on!*

How important it is that we continue the ministry of service which is our Thursday lunch. It's a good team, purposeful and gracious, and prayerful.

Deacon Jack, ordained deacon last Friday, has joined the team. Thursday will be one of his three parish days each week. He is combining ministry at Christ Church with studying for a Master's degree at Aberdeen University. What a pity that the lockdown prevented a sneaky peek last Sunday



*Thursday lunch co Ordinator, Margaret, looks on with amazement...as our newest deacon fulfils his vocation by turning his hand to frying onions!*

at the newly refurbished flat above 'The Lamb' which will be his home while he is with us. This week he wisely sought my interior design advice on the colour of a new settee. I was able to temper his tastes, and wisely suggest he rely on cushions for a bit of bright colour...

Happy to advise others on such matters by the way—for a small donation to 'The Lamb' funds!

*Tucking your treasure in a drawer.....*

Talking of funds, readers will know it's not my custom to use this communication to beg for money. Just to say though, that meeting online rather in person means that we miss the collection in the plate of those who give in that way (rather than, say, by direct debit). Last month for example, our budget hope in 'normal' times was for offerings of \$10,000. In the end, because we only gathered for two Sundays out of the possible four, the total was \$8,500. I suppose what I'm asking is that those who give in the plate when you come to church, if you can, tuck what you would have given had you been present on those two Sundays into a drawer. Save it up, and bring it along when you next have the opportunity to be here. Just to say, for those who come to collect the sacrament from the vicarage, or happen to be passing by, you can drop collection in, and it is then passed on to Robyn our parish treasurer.

Well, enough of that!

*Glory under our feet.....*

Yesterday I had a call from our friends at Cameo memorials who have been working on the marble that will be set into the bottom step that folk will be greeted with as they make the journey from the Urban park at 260 Sydney Road into our sacred churchyard: **'Enter His gates with thanksgiving'**. It's a work in progress, but here's a taster. The letters in this photo are transfers of the text that will be hewn into the stone. Stonemasons at Cameo are working on that today and hopefully the stone will be in place in a week or so. Another small step....



*And finally,* our **Sunday Mass** online will begin at 10 a.m. Join us then if you can, but of course you will be able to participate at any time after 10 on our website or You tube channel. Why not encourage a friend to tune in!

**The reserved sacrament can be collected from the vicarage from 2—4 tomorrow, and 2—6 on Saturday.**

With love from us here.

+ *Lindsay*