

Vicar's Annual Report to the APCM – April 2021

Dear Friends,

Six months on from our last AGM, held in November, I want to thank everyone for all they have done to ensure that our parish has continued to worship God and serve him in our community during these incredibly challenging times.

In one way or another this has involved you all, so I just want to thank you all for what you have done, and congratulate you all on your faithfulness, fortitude, and patience during these times.

Out of necessity, we have focussed upon two priorities.

- Ensuring that God continues to be worshipped by our church community.
- Ensuring that we have been able to keep in touch with one another, and that needs are met.

In other words, we have been a lot like the church that Jesus formed in Galilee all those years ago! (See Acts 2: 42 – 47)

I can't help thinking, that as times change, as restrictions (hopefully) ease, and as we reflect upon what God has been saying to us during this time of pandemic, and where he is leading us in the future, we need to keep hold of these two priorities and in the light of them, ask ourselves the following questions..

- 1) What have we learned from lockdown about being the Church of Jesus?**
- 2) Of those things that we have started in lockdown, which do we need to continue and develop?**
- 3) Of those things that we have not been able to do this past year, which are we content to leave behind in the past?**
- 4) Given all this, what do we consider will be the most faithful use of the resources God has given us (Human, Financial, Spiritual, Administrative, Buildings)?**

I would like these questions to start a conversation between us all, not just the new PCC, throughout the coming months, and be something we pray about, think about, talk about, argue about, learn from each other and God about, over the coming months as we become the 'Post – Covid' Parish of Fleet in 2021 and beyond.

We have much to look forward to in the months ahead – more opportunities to be together, the commencement of the building project, the arrival of Cally and her family, the Archbishop's mission in the Autumn and much more that God has yet to reveal to us.

As we embrace and enjoy all of this, we must not look back, remember what happened to Lot's wife when she did that! Instead, we must keep our eyes fixed upon Jesus, and follow him as he leads us into the new future he has prepared for us.

Once again, thank you for all you have done and all that you are, and I look forward to all our adventures together in the year ahead.

May God bless you all,

Mark