

## Christ is Risen – Are We?

**S**o we enter our second Easter under covid restrictions. Some of our churches will be open for worship, and others won't. That is a tricky balancing act, and the decision has to be made by each Parochial Church Council, bearing in mind a number of factors.

If your church isn't open, please don't blame the vicar or PCC: they are doing their best in a very difficult situation. If it is open, but you don't feel safe going, find a way to join in corporate Easter worship from your home. If it is open, but with no congregational singing, no kiss or hug or handshake of peace, no communion wine, no coffee afterwards: be grateful that you can be together.

Whether your church building is open or closed at Easter, Jesus is alive, his people the church are alive, and our resurrection hope remains sure and certain.

Over the coming months, as lockdown is released (possibly in fits and starts, very gradually, frustratingly slowly), let's all resolve to know and experience and live out the new life which Jesus brings. How can you and your church be newly alive for

your neighbours and your community? What new things should your local church be doing, and how can you contribute to those?

Many of our churches have been a huge blessing to their local communities during the dark days of covid. How can they change gear and bring blessing as we come out of the restrictions? Start discussing that in your church and with your friends!

Many of our clergy and church workers have been working incredibly hard without a proper break. Will your church make sure that the vicar, and others who have given so much, get a really good break this summer or autumn? Why not use online resources for worship to give the vicar a full uninterrupted month off this summer?

Let's really show that we love each other, and our communities, and our spiritual leaders. That could be a sign of the risen life of Jesus among us.

With best wishes  
+Donald

