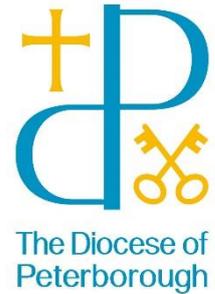


BISHOP'S BULLETIN No 25

To the Licensed Clergy of Peterborough Diocese

19 October 2020



Dear friends

Warm greetings. It is my joy as well as my privilege to continue to care for and support the clergy of this Diocese. Thank you for continuing to make that such a pleasurable task, even in these strange and hard times.

Remembrance

It is increasingly possible that we will have to do Remembrance this year, whether in church on 8 November or in a more civic context on 11 November, with minimal physical attendance. Doubtless some people will be unhappy about that. Let's support each other to be wise, to make good decisions, and not to be unduly swayed by siren voices from any direction.

My Sunday sermons continue to be available, but you might like to know that the one for 8 November focusses on the gospel for that day, with only tangential reference to Remembrance Day. My Psalm meditation for 10 November is on Psalm 46, with a very strong remembrance theme. If you would like to make use of that, as a sermon for 8 November, or in any other way, please ask for it as you would for any Sunday sermon. My videos are now being sent out by my Office Secretary, Rachel Lomas. Do request any you would like from her by [email](#).

Schools

I regularly hear good things about the work done by head teachers during lockdown, with many offering very considerable time, energy and care, especially to disadvantaged children and their families. I know of some who have not had a proper break, let alone a holiday, since March.

A few heads have said how helpful their vicar has been as a sounding board, or pastor, or friend. If that is you – thank you! I do encourage you all to keep in close touch with head teachers in your patch, whether of church schools or not, offering support, pastoral care, and simple understanding of their commitment and role.

Self-care

As I write that about head teachers, and our role in supporting them, and others like them who have been serving way beyond their usual commitment, I am very conscious of you as clergy. This continues to be a very costly business, and, however it unfolds over coming months, we are likely to be under heavy pressure for the foreseeable future.

I have said it before, but please look after yourself. Take the time you need. Have an extra break this month. If you're exhausted after five days of work, take two days off. Don't be forced by those who don't understand into unsustainable workloads or patterns of life. You don't have to run traditional church, online church, and meet everyone's pastoral needs, on your own. If others expect you to do that, politely resist. Ask for help, from your congregation or from fellow clergy or from the Diocese. We are here for each other.

With love in Christ

+ Donald

STOP PRESS

I am happy to commend the Church of England's Christmas campaign and materials to you. You can find them at:

www.churchofengland.org/comfortandjoy

www.chpublishing.co.uk/comfortandjoy