

BISHOP'S BULLETIN No 49

To the Licensed Clergy of Peterborough Diocese

Trinity Sunday, 30 May 2021



Dear friends

Congratulations

This week sees the tenth anniversary of Bishop John's consecration as a bishop. Warm congratulations, thanks for his ministry among us, and good wishes to him.

The Roadmap – again!

A fortnight ago I said that in the next few days we could expect advice in a number of areas, including singing, social distancing, face coverings, the peace, the common cup, and other matters that might or might not change on 21 June. It was not to be.

Because of the “Indian variant” of the coronavirus, and great uncertainty as to what effects that might have, all those decisions have been put on hold by the government, probably until around 14 June. So, whatever relaxations come in next month, we won't have adequate time to prepare fully for them.

In my view that is not necessarily a bad thing. *Festina lente*, my Latin teacher used to say, *Make haste slowly*. In modern parlance, *Don't rush at it*, or *Take your time*. Even if we receive permission to do all sorts of things at relatively short notice, it might still be very wise to think it through and bring in whatever changes we think right at the pace we judge to be sensible.

As I have tried to say in various ways over the last fifteen months, *Be kind to yourself*, and, *There is enough stress around: don't add to it*.

Talking of stress ...

I am very conscious that some of us are only just holding it together, or are trying to hide the fact that we've lost perspective and any sense of calm. I am delighted that some wise churchwardens have been working with me to persuade clergy to look after themselves better. Once again, if you need extra time off this summer, take it. If you need four weeks instead of two, take them. If you can't find cover, ask your rural dean, or your archdeacon, or my office. I am quite willing to give permission for communion by extension, or even to allow your parish not to have a Sunday communion service, if that is what it takes to make sure the clergy get the summer break they need.

Trinity Sunday

Tomorrow we move back to “Ordinary Time”, but for a few hours more let’s continue to luxuriate in the love of our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, God.

Al Ahli Hospital, Gaza

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, part of the Anglican Communion, supports the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza. The hospital is on the front line of the major humanitarian crisis, and is in desperate need of funds. Archbishop Hosam, the new Archbishop in Jerusalem, has issued an appeal to Anglicans worldwide. You can find a link to this here: [Al Ahli Hospital Appeal 2021 | jmecca.org.uk](https://www.jmecca.org.uk)

Half-term

As we edge tentatively towards a new normal, whatever that may look like, and as this week sees a bank holiday and half-term for those of you with children at school, I plan to ease your burden again next Sunday and write again in a fortnight’s time.

With love in Christ

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