

Dear Grayshott,

July - August 2019

Having celebrated all the main festivals of the Church calendar, Advent, Christmas, Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost, we now enter what is simply called 'Ordinary Time'. This means that we enter a time where life settles, and takes on familiar rhythms. This is true for those in schools and at work.

As I write, the nation is still in the process of working out: who will lead us, where we are going, and how we get there! Many of us are tired of the stop start nature of the whole process and debate, weary of constantly building ourselves up and preparing for something, only for the plan to change. We live in a culture where hype, and excitement is the order of the day, with short attention spans driving the way so much communication happens, so the 'ordinary' is appealing.

Summer is here, despite the weather forecasts steadfastly suggesting the contrary, so we look forward to Wimbledon and the BBC Proms, Test Cricket, the open air, and holidays, so most of us look forward to relaxing a bit. However, there will also be some waiting for their exam results, and others are facing major medical issues, what I call 'life scale challenges'. While the year heaves a huge sigh, let us all remember our neighbours, and look out for those facing major life moments.

The important thing for us all to remember is that it is not what others say, the exam results or the nature of the issue we face that should define us, but how we face all these things, and how we look after each other as neighbours. The Bible (1Peter) says 'Above all, love one another deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without complaining...' and if 'sins' represents our mistakes, disappointments, and unwise choices, it is the quality of our neighbourhood that will help those who are struggling to get over those things, and hospitality, kindness, and love that brings new perspectives and hope. This has been happening with the very successful open gardens, and open studios.

We are looking forward to our St Luke's Summer Holiday Club, and a concert by the King's Men from Cambridge again, with other events in the pipeline, and don't forget our Last Night of the Proms, to look forward to. But let us all build into our ordinary time, awareness of those around us, and of course as always, you are all very welcome to join us each Sundays and the other events at St Luke's, as the ordinary takes on a special quality.

Jeremy Haswell