

Dear Grayshott,

July 2020

Through the turmoil of the last weeks under Covid-19 constraints, we have all been challenged. We ask questions of the circumstances, and they have asked searching questions of us. There has been so much written about it, and now in the wake of George Floyd's death, we are facing questions of justice, race, and many institutions are being forced to consider their histories.

We need to be still, listen, and really hear what people are saying, particularly people on the margins. When we take the words of Jesus seriously, we see him challenge society and institutions. His words of the 'Kingdom of Heaven' led eventually to his crucifixion, but have inspired generation after generation since.

Many people have been logging on to on-line worship, and we at St Luke's have been putting video services up on our YouTube channel so we can continue to reach out to our congregation, community and beyond. You are all invited to look us up, and watch. Many of the 'certainties' we held in the past have failed, and as ever, extreme circumstances have brought out the best and worst in human behaviour. What we are seeing, is that it is selfless acts of kindness and love that have the most power to keep us together, and sustain us, and these counter the negatives, that are never far away. Covid-19 restrictions are extending beyond our original hope, I want again to register a huge 'thank you' to the extraordinary people who have stepped up to support vulnerable neighbours, and those who have coordinated the work. We bless you and so appreciate your amazing support to so many, without it we would be facing a greater community crisis.

The future may look grim, but as we pull together with kindness and love, sharing resources, we will make a future for each other. St Luke's is opening up gradually, and are here to support and help. Please be in touch through our website, and let us grow together in the hope that comes from love.

With our love,

Jeremy and Claire,

Rev. Jeremy Haswell
Vicar of St Luke's Grayshott