



1st May 2020

Dear St Peter's Family

We have now experienced six weeks of Lockdown, an unprecedented time for all of us and lives for many have changed in ways that would have been hard to imagine at the beginning of our school year. We are indebted to so many people in our community and across the country who have given so much to support and sustain us during this time, some at great cost – paying the greatest price. It has been a time that has both challenged us and inspired us as we have seen the remarkable commitment and dedication, resilience and creativity of the people amongst whom we live doing so much to both sustain us but also enrich our lives.

It has been a challenge, separated as we have been from the people we love and care for – our wider family and circle friends; while we find new ways to be together, we nevertheless remain separated behind the doors of our homes, and that 'together yet separated' life can be hard. And so, it has been a challenge to discover new ways of living and working from home.

For the time being, life is very different; we cannot gather as once we did. For people of faith, it has been very hard, unable as we are to visit and worship with others in our churches, mosques and temples, to draw strength and encouragement from God and each other as we would normally do.

As a Christian, this season of Easter is a source of comfort and hope, a light that shines in the darkness and a reminder that through the resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ, God has proclaimed in the most astonishing profound way His overwhelming love for us and all creation!

As we look around our gardens, or open our windows to listen to the birdsong or delight in glimpses of blossom, inhaling the fresh clean spring air (and yes, there are benefits to greatly reduced flights and road travel), it seems as if all creation celebrates that glorious new dawn, the gift of new life, new birth, new possibilities, that no darkness, no pandemic will overcome.

The story of Easter is a constant reminder that God loves us and is with us all – whatever our beliefs. He comes to us in the signs of new life bursting around us; in the kindness, love and generosity of strangers. He speaks to us through our experiences of love and being loved. We meet him in every encounter that lights up our lives (even though that encounter may be via Google, Zoom, WhatsApp or Skype at the moment!) One day, not too far off we hope, we will feel afresh God's love in the longed-for loving touch and hug of our loved ones from whom we are currently separated.

Meanwhile, an enormous 'thank you' to all the staff at St Peter's School for their extraordinary creativity and the many ways in which they have continued to support, nurture and enrich the lives of our children.

I hope and pray that you all keep safe and well.

Warmest wishes,

Rev. Lesley

Revd. Canon Lesley McCormack
Governor