

An Open Letter to our Parishioners

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. (Matthew 10: 29-30)

What's in a number?

Well if we are counting the hairs on our head, this number may be more important for some than others. If we are counting in 'tiers' whether we are in tier 1,2,3 is important to know. The number 6 of course has become important for everyone, and when working out who can come to church for which service then it becomes quite confusing as the numbers keep changing, especially for weddings, baptisms (Christenings) and funerals. Do ask if you want to know the latest guidance.

Perhaps the most important number for us to remember is 3. The Holy Trinity, 3in1, continues to look out for us, gives us strength and solace, and promises never to leave us. Even in such unsettling times, Jesus still brings hope and life in abundance.

Every day's a school day.

Half term is coming up, a huge relief for students and teachers alike. It has been and continues to be a wearying year for them and these little breaks are crucial for wellbeing. I know that our teachers will continue to plan and prepare during half term, but let's pray for them that they get the rest that they need too, and time to spend with their own families. Let us pray for all who work in schools that they will know how much they are valued by us all.

Students in year 11 at Test Valley (Fifth form in 'old money') will be sitting mocks immediately after half term, so their 'break' will be full of revision. These mocks take on a greater value as in these times they may well be their final exams. Please pray for all in GCSE and A level years as they have such an uncertain time ahead of them.

For those of us for whom school days are long past the darker days provide less gardening time and perhaps an opportunity to learn something new. If anyone would like to do some spiritual study I have uncovered some tapes (yes those old fashioned cassettes) from my time at vicar school. I am looking for a new home for them. If you think this is something that might interest you (and you have the right contraption to play them on) please let me know. A list of titles follows.

I will be taking next week as Annual Leave to support our resident Year 11 through his mocks, so no letters from me next week; I'll see you in November!

Love and blessings,

Vanessa

Spirituality

Rule of Life 1 David Runcorn

Word and Spirit at Play David Runcorn

Biblical Exposition

At the Bush that Burnt David Runcorn

Let my People Go David Runcorn

A Way in the Wilderness David Runcorn

Gospel in Action

Sudanese Priest Joseph Bilal

Fostering Ruth MacDonald

Worship

Trinity at Thirty: Service and Sermon