

An Open Letter to our Parishioners

**When I was one,
I had just begun.
When I was two,
I was nearly new.
When I was three,
I was hardly me.
When I was four,
I was not much more.
When I was five,
I was just alive.
But now I am six,
I'm as clever as clever.
So I think I'll be six now
for ever and ever.**

Author: A.A. Milne

I have been musing on 'the rule of 6'. In the Bible the number 6 is just 1 short of completeness, 7 being the perfect number. Perhaps the rule of 6 means we are almost there? 6 of course is half of 12; the 12 tribes, 12 months in a year, 12 disciples... The rule of 6 means that I can visit some friends, but it also means that our Christmas celebrations with family will be limited as my brother makes 7. It means that micro-fellowship groups can meet, but not all of us in one home at a time.

We have all been on a steep learning curve this year. We have discovered what we miss when we are not free to engage socially. At first for me it was meals out, but that was fleeting and the long term loss has been the lack of hugs, especially from some of our smallest members of Little Angels.

Online worship has been great, but not the same as raising our voices to heaven with others all praising God. I long to sing again with others, not just in the shower on my own.

Prayer Bear had quite a following on social media, and care packages were left on the doorsteps of parents who were having 'wobbly days', and occasionally 'Sunday School in a Bag'. We have now found a way to meet up safely, and from this Wednesday a 'Covid Secure' Little Angels will begin again: meeting at the church hall to sign in to track and trace, have our temperatures taken and then go off for a micro scavenger hunt in groups of no more than 6. Returning to the church for our toddler worship, face coverings and hand sanitiser and social distancing becoming new rituals. Our craft becomes a take home activity bag.

New ways of visiting those in our local nursing home were just opening up, and I enjoyed a socially distanced conversation with a retired priest before measures closed nursing homes down again. Pen and paper will now take the place of face to face visits.

I think it was Shakespeare who said 'Where there's a will, there's a way.' Solomon wrote the proverb, 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. Acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.'

Love and blessings,

Vanessa

Daily diary on the next page

Monday

6.30pm at St Peter's and online (www.facebook.com/thewallopingvicar/live)

The Apple of My Eye: an exploration of Compline

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday

6pm Compline online (www.facebook.com/thewallopingvicar/live)

Wednesday

10am Little Angels faith based toddlers St Peter's Church Hall

Sunday

6pm Traditional Compline (www.facebook.com/thewallopingvicar/live)