

# Rector's Letter - Rev'd Jeremy Trew - April 2021

Dear Friends,

Firstly, let me thank all of you for your warm welcome to the parishes; your encouragements, your practical gifts and support, and mostly your prayers. My only frustration is that I can't really meet people face to face; it's facemask to facemask at best, and usually outdoors, which means we're dependent on the weather.



My first few weeks here have focused on a range of online meetings, preparing for, and delivering, services, and wading through the vast amounts of emails which seem to arrive with a greater frequency than my capacity to answer them. So, if you have contacted me on some urgent matter, please do not think I am wilfully ignoring you. I simply need time to better comprehend how things run here. As things hopefully ease after Easter I hope to be able to spend more time with actual people. In the meantime I gain my understanding of Saffron Walden and its surrounding villages as best I can.

One of the themes occurring again and again is the way people view their communities; whether they be pessimists or optimists or whatever. There's a lot of this about right now with the debate over what our communities, and also our churches, will be like post-Covid. The way we view a place or a person, or even a process, shapes the experience we gain from them. Hence, two people can be in the same situation. For one it is heaven, for the other hell. Now I know both the optimists and the pessimists would claim to be the actual realists in any situation, but I suspect neither grasps the whole picture. The Christian is called to a third way, this is the way of faith; a belief that despite our worst, or our paltry best, there is still a better way. That in partnership with the God of Easter and one another there is always the opportunity for resurrection; the building of something new and better. This is a 'big picture' view and it requires us to suspend our own prejudices for the sake of something better. That's quite a challenge.

Of course, I'm gaining my perspective from a distance, to some degree. My relationship with you needs to move from my head towards my heart, and that is hindered by the restrictions we are working under. I should really hold my comments until I'm better able to get to know you. Judging without the knowledge of experience can be dangerous. So, I'll hold my peace and wait until I'm more invested in your wonderful communities.

Incarnation and resurrection, all in one letter. Of course, you can't separate the two, and neither should we try.

Warmest wishes,

Jeremy

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