

Thank You!

1 Chronicles 16:34

*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures for ever.*

Are we beginning to see a growing attitude of gratitude in our society? We are becoming accustomed to coming out onto our drives at 8.00pm every Thursday night to cheer and applaud our wonderful workers in the NHS. I notice that more people are pausing to thank shop assistants as they pay for their purchases. We make space for others to pass when we are out walking, exchange smiles and eye contact more readily.



Yet for many working long hours in those frontline jobs, and for many quietly caring for a loved one at home, those families who do not have the room to maintain safe distancing and who lack green spaces to play in, for those whose jobs have gone but where the bills keep coming, this is a thankless time.

Sunday, 26th April should have been the day of our Annual Parish Church Meeting. The Coronavirus means that this very important event, in which we review the past year, vote for our Churchwardens and members of the PCC and outline the way ahead, has been postponed until we can gather safely again. I am particularly sorry about this because it is an opportunity to give thanks for God's loving faithfulness in my first year in post here at All Saints', for our growth in faith and love together, and to recognise the enormous contributions that so many people make to parish life and our worship together.

Whilst we can't meet together, can we gather up some of our thoughts and prayers and give thanks to God for all his faithfulness today?

- You might like to gather up some small stones. As you pick up each one, call to mind one thing which you want to thank God for.
- You could begin to keep a scrap book of pictures, phrases or memories which make you smile and feel encouraged during this period of confinement.
- You could write down each thing you wish to thank God for on a slip of paper and put them into a jar or box. Pick one out when you need to be reminded of God's goodness.
- Use your smartphone or camera to take photos of things around you which bring you joy. You could share those pictures on social media if you wished. (I've taken to posting a "Good morning!" picture a day on my Facebook page – do take a look!)
- As you settle down to rest at night, take a moment to thank God for the events and encounters of your day.

I hope that these suggestions will be an encouragement to you, and that even though we may be apart, we can join in sharing our thankfulness to God, whose love endures for ever.

Rev'd Vick Barrett
April 25th 2020