



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH *Mottingham*

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PASTORAL LETTER FOR THE SEASON OF TRINITY

Dear Friends,

Warm greetings to you all for the lengthy Season of Trinity which lasts through from now until the weeks just before Advent.

It is very good that the time of self-isolation seems to be coming to an end, but nonetheless there remain serious concerns about health, well-being and the financial future. In facing these concerns we may be encouraged by recalling that in the Trinity the Christian idea of God is founded in the three-fold relationship of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Relatedness and mutuality are keys both to understanding God and to finding blessing in our interactions with our fellow human beings. There is a strength and joy in human connectedness that honours diversity. That is why the 'Black Lives Matter' movement has been so heartening since the recent cruel murder of George Floyd in the U.S.A. This movement calls us to celebrate human difference, and to rejoice in the fact the whole created order is founded on a diversity evident in the Godhead itself.

Strength in facing the current grave challenges of the pandemic crisis comes through a sense of connection and unity founded in the love modelled by the divine Trinity. Applied in human social life, this love promotes respect for the dignity and rights of people of all races, backgrounds and nations. Christians are called to be loving, kind and gracious in embodying this respect. These qualities have been very evident in the ministry and family life modelled by Revd Tim, Carol and Gad in the time we have been privileged to share with them, especially in these last 9 months, during which Tim has taken responsibility for St Alban's. We give thanks for all the gifts they have brought to this parish; they will be greatly missed and we wish them every joy and blessing as Revd Tim takes on his new ministry as a Royal Naval Chaplain, and the family prepares to move to Portsmouth.

In expressing these hopes and prayers we give thanks also for the Trinitarian love that unites us, and ask for the grace to embody this love in our relationships with family and friends, in church life and in the wider community,

Wishing you every blessing in sharing in the love of our triune God,

Ian

Revd Ian Welch