

It's nice to think that life is getting back to some form of normality, as in pre-pandemic times, but then I guess we are still a long way from what we might at one time have considered normal. We still encourage the use of masks and hand sanitiser in church but thankfully we are now allowed to sing hymns. From September we will be re-introducing the distribution of wine from a common cup to those who wish to receive it. Up to now, Holy Communion has been offered in one kind only to minimise the risk of spreading the virus.

Even the weather this summer has been more than a little odd, to say the least. The 5th September has been designated Climate Sunday, so we will be thinking about our impact on the planet and its weather systems as we celebrate our Harvest Festival at Patching Church. I'm pleased to be able to tell you that this year we will once again be holding our very popular auction of harvest produce after the service. It's a great chance to stock up on some delicious cakes, pies, fruit and veg. If you have not been before I can recommend it.

With schools about to go back, we will be re-starting our Youth Club on Thursday, 9th September, at Findon Village Hall from 4:30pm to 6.30pm. It is open to any children of secondary school age, so if you have, or know of a child in this age group who would like a place to chill out and enjoy games and activities with other young people, do send them along. Later this month, provisionally on Saturday 25th depending on the weather, we are planning what we are calling a pilgrimage, essentially a family walk with a picnic, so keep an eye on our Facebook page or website if you would be interested in joining us for that.

If you have a pet of any description I have an advance notice for your diary - there will be a Blessing of Pets service on Sunday 3rd October at 3pm which will be held in Findon Church as we celebrate St Francis of Assisi. It also happens to be Animal Welfare Sunday.

If you haven't ventured back to church yet, and if you are still wary of mingling in a church environment, you might consider joining us perhaps on a Tuesday for the 10am service of Holy Communion, as we generally have fewer than ten at that service and there is plenty of room to be well spread out.

With every blessing for the month ahead.

Colin