

25 April 2021 - Easter 4

## ST PETER'S WEEKLY NEWS



### Letter from the Vicar

No doubt you will have noticed we have not had a newsletter for a couple of months. It has proved to be a job too far for me to complete. I am sorry for that as the newsletter is a good way for the Vicar to communicate with the congregation.

So I am trying an experiment. Can we combine the newsletter with the weekly service sheet? So here we are, a first attempt and I wonder what your thoughts might be. I would value suggestions of what could be included, even more valued would be articles and pieces to include.

**Forgiveness:** Its funny how, like buses, questions can come in threes...well in groups anyway. Since Easter Sunday I have been asked a couple of times what my thoughts are on forgiveness. When asked I am taken back to a conversation I had in my first parish when, having preached what I thought was a stonkingly good sermon on forgiveness one of our older and wiser members came up to me at coffee and told me she could not forgive. Something had been done to her or had happened to her she could never forgive. She said so with sadness but determination.

As I've grown older I've been able to explore within my own experience and reading what she meant and how difficult forgiveness can be. We are told in the life of faith we must forgive. In the reality of our human condition forgiving is tough. Forgiveness is not a momentary event. It is not something you can identify at a given point or moment. It is more of an intention. Something we should work at over time. We start by putting our heart in the right place, away from the darkness of bitterness and anger, into the light of love. For us that would be the light of the love of God where for us all things begin. We recognise this is a journey, forgiveness begins but it does not just happen. We want to forgive and we know we should forgive, yet forgiveness is an aspiration we work towards. And in our tradition we can only work towards forgiveness if we travel with Jesus Christ. In him we see the example of forgiveness, for in him we are forgiven. That is the Easter promise.