

Gulworthy Notes – February 2021

I spoke in the January notes of our looking forward to 2021 with hope. Hope that we could hug loved ones and hope for those in isolation. It may seem that nothing has changed in the past month as we hear announcements of further lockdown and on bans on travelling abroad for holidays. But in the news today was the announcement of another vaccine that is proving highly effective against new Covid variants even as we also hear of Europe squabbling over who gets their fair share. Let's pray that love and generosity can take over from pettiness and that we all share what we can afford to pay for with those parts of the world that cannot.

St Paul's remains open for worship and though our numbers have dropped during this present lockdown, our small congregation continues to pray for the wellbeing of our community and we try to look to the future with hope.

Our churches in the Exeter Diocese and all around the country are trying to minister to their own congregations and to the wider community as they have always done. But there's no beating around the bush: financially it has been very hard. Just as families and businesses have been hit by repeated lockdowns and restrictions, so too have the churches and St Paul's is no exception.

We rely on community events for fundraising in order to maintain the church and to keep it open for worship. In 2020 and maybe for much of 2021 we have been, and will be, unable to hold fundraising events. We would welcome your help, whether it be with ideas for online fundraising or by donations, however small. We are determined to continue to minister to our community and to be a place of peace and sanctuary within the Parish but we would like to be able to plan for the future with confidence.

God is always there for us – let us always be ready for Him.

Spring is only around the corner – May God continue to bless us all.