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Dear Reader

*Look at the birds of the air.....consider the lilies of the field....  
strive first for the kingdom of God*

Eighteen months ago when we entered our first lockdown I began to write a weekly letter to you. In those first letters I attempted to put into words our sense of loss and confusion as our lives were suddenly changed by Covid19.

As our churches closed and we began to find new ways to share the gospel I was particularly conscious that those without technology would be excluded from the worshipping life of our community if services and communications moved on line. For eighteen months letters have been emailed with the weekly newsletter containing information about services; a group of kind volunteers has delivered hard copies to all who have no access to technology. We are so grateful to them for doing this each week but we really do need to give them back their Saturday afternoons now that lockdown has ended. Therefore, since most people have returned to church, these letters from myself or members of the ministry area team will no longer be produced and delivered each week. Newsletters will be available in church on Sundays and at midweek services and also on our websites. If you have not yet felt comfortable returning to church I do hope you will very soon because we miss you and we believe you are missing out on being fed spiritually. Our churches are safe, face coverings continue to be worn and we are careful to ensure the sacrament is covered during the Eucharistic Prayer and only touched by hands that have been sanitised. Please contact me if you are still worried about returning to church or would like a pastoral visit.

This Sunday when we give thanks for the Harvest in Radyr, as we did last week in St Fagans, the children will remind us of the many blessings we take for granted and sometime use and waste carelessly. We will think of those whose lives are far less comfortable than our own and we will give generously to the FoodBank providing for the needs of those who are hungry in Cardiff. I ran a satellite FoodBank in one parish and I know at first hand what a difference your gifts will make. I remember clearly the look of gratitude but also on the faces of young parents and elderly folks. I know too how easy it is to slip from having all that we need to having very little - it only takes a job loss, a failed relationship, ill health or a combination of these things. I often think, there by the grace of God go I.

In our Harvest Gospel from Saint Matthew, Jesus notices how the crops in the field and the birds in the air have all they need yet he knowingly observes the human capacity to worry, sometimes unnecessarily. When we wonder how long we can last with the fuel we have in our tank or greedily queue up just in case we should need another £30 of petrol we could just use this confession with which our children will open Harvest Thanksgiving Services,

God our Father, we are sorry  
for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly,  
and acted ungratefully.  
Father, in your mercy:  
**Forgive us and help us.**

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest,  
but sometimes forget that you have given them to us.  
Father, in your mercy:  
**Forgive us and help us.**

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied,  
but ignore the cry of the hungry.  
Father, in your mercy:  
**Forgive us and help us.**

We store up goods for ourselves alone,  
as if there were no God and no heaven.

Father, in your mercy:  
**Forgive us and help us.**

I treasure these words of confession for we live in a world where half of us are on a diets and the other half are hungry

And, finally, as life returns to normal and ending months of letter writing draws to a close I share with you a little glimpse of our family life. I began this series of letters sharing with you our sadness as Jack our second son's wedding celebrations in the alps were cancelled only days before his marriage to Georgie in March 2020. A few days ago I conducted the wedding of Lauren and Peter, which had been deferred on four occasions due to the pandemic. If the bible is to be believed, and if the words I so often share with you are true that, "God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them" then here is a little glimpse of heaven come to earth.



It has been a privilege, although sometimes a challenge writing so regularly, baring my soul and questioning my faith and yours, but there's a time for everything and now is the time to gather as a church to give thanks to God for the blessings we receive, to make confession for the mistakes we make and to be fed on our journey of faith

With love and prayers,

Vicki  
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