

## Comment from Bishop David regards 4 July

Dear Co-Workers in Christ,

We are all considering in detail the guidance for re-opening church buildings and the possibilities for public for worship alongside our valued virtual life together. With your local colleagues I am sure you are working out what is practicable while pacing yourselves in anticipation of the second half of a year that will be very different to those we have known.

In blending the real and virtual world we now inhabit, I pray that the Holy Spirit will help you take intentional steps to promote the wellbeing of your communities, fellow workers, household and yourself. This should give priority, not least, to a proper break during the summer, for pausing, resting and restoring energy, making ready to pray and think through what promises to be an extraordinary future for Church and Society.

The months ahead will also bring new opportunities to have deeper transforming conversations leading to action in some of the major issues facing us in the 2020s, especially Eradicating Racism, Achieving Zero Carbon and Living in Love and Faith.

Meanwhile, continue to pray for those struggling with health and economic anxieties and for other parts of the country, like our neighbouring city Leicester, who have already experienced a resurgence of the pandemic and the resulting shut down.

As I reflected earlier this week, with Bishop Anne and our Ordinands, with constant change, uncertainty and waiting, "The one who calls you is faithful, and He will do this" (1 Thessalonians 5:24)

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:16)

With my prayers

*+David Birmingham*