

6th May 2020

Dear all

The last few days have seen one of the hardest decisions that the Williams family has had to make. Some of you already know that our dog Nugget has been diagnosed with a bone tumour on her leg, and that the initial recommendation was amputation. Needless to say, this was not an easy decision. Later discussion with the vets however indicated that it wasn't presenting itself in the usual way. Also, she is in no apparent pain or discomfort. So, the decision now is not to amputate – rather biopsy to determine the exact nature of the tumour, and probably allow her to see out her time (however long that might be) with all 4 legs. One comment a friend made struck me particularly – “We are god to our pets”. That really struck me as worth much pondering.

As mentioned earlier, I will be taking a couple of days off on Thursday and Friday (7th and 8th). Friday 8th, as you know, is a Bank Holiday, moved from Monday in order to commemorate VE Day. Due to the coronavirus, all celebrations sadly had to be cancelled, including a planned service here at DSJ. I have recorded the service we would have had, on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/1bhAYWlgKcQ>

The order of service is [attached](#) to this email. In the order of service, there are some suggested hymns, and links to YouTube performances of the hymns – they are not recorded on the video of the service. You may wish to listen to the hymns – sing along with them even – at the appropriate point.

And now for something completely different! The excellent sports commentator, Andrew Cotter, has been out walking his dogs again. Here is his hilarious commentary on their behaviour:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=3794146687324278>

For those interested in traditional music, here is a link to Phil Beer, singing May Day Carol (sorry it's a few days late). Phil is one of the most respected multi-instrumentalists in the business, and a part of the (then) duo, Show of Hands, who played at our wedding reception.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0dG5GKg25g&fbclid=IwAR0LKpr_bSICYuZIF2kDDxgNBiqbjbByoaPwPDi3hSpwitbizVLbE3n7HDs

With no relation to anything previous, I have just come across this lovely version of *In Christ Alone*, in a Celtic-style performance.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kvFtXphmMU>

Finally, it has just been announced that, as soon as diocesan bishops give their agreement, priests can enter their churches to say the daily office, and to record/stream services. This, sadly, does not yet extend to others for private prayer. We don't have wi-fi in the church, so it will be very difficult to livestream services from the church. In a recent PCC meeting via Zoom, we were more or less equally divided about whether it was preferable to have a livestreamed service from the vicarage, or a recorded one in the church. I think we may go for both so that people have the choice.

Stay safe

Blessings and love

Mark