

Rudgwick

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From the Vicar

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Dear Friends

How are you doing? It's over 6 months since the Prime Minister told us to we had to '*stay at home, protect the NHS, save lives*'. It seems strange to think back to what life was like before Coronavirus – I watch a TV programme recorded before lockdown and instantly think, '*they're not social distancing*' before remembering that there was a time when we did not!

I do not know about you, but I find it hard to keep up with changes in the rules, what is and is not allowed and find myself having to check and re-check – it doesn't help that different administrations in the UK allow different numbers of people and households at different types of gatherings. Then you add in different regulations for a Church service and different again for a baptism, wedding or funeral, and different yet again for the Youth Centre and my head is 'swimming'! Of course, the regulations are there for our safety and for the protection of others, but – especially for things like youth work and Sunday School – there are pages and pages. The latest one I am wading through, just for working with young people, runs to 14 pages!

All these regulations help me appreciate Jesus' words, 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest ... For my yoke (rules and regulations) is easy and my burden is light.' I think it is easy to suppose following Jesus is like following all the rules and regulations around Coronavirus. Yet the reality is very different, it is not about rules and regulations, but about a relationship, about loving Jesus. When Jesus was asked about rules and regulations he simply said "love God and love your neighbour". Do you love God?

Every blessing

Martin King