

## Pastoral Letter 22<sup>nd</sup> April

Dear friends,

After a couple of weeks driving onto the drive at the Rectory, with the grass on the front lawns seemingly saying to me, "Isn't it about time you cut us?" I decided with the warm sunny weather, that I could put it off no longer. So I got out my mower and extension cables and off I went. As I set off, however, I realised very quickly that I had a decision to make, due to there being clumps of beautiful flowering primroses in various places across the lawns; should I mow perfectly formed lines like the courts at Wimbledon and mow over the primroses, or should I mow around the flowers leaving them in full bloom? Let's just say after I'd finished mowing the lawns, the lines looked more like the circuit at Brands Hatch rather than a tennis court, there were so many turns and bends that were needed. But at least the primroses were left intact to continue to flower.

We all have to make decisions every day, some of them might seem small or minor whilst others sometimes might feel much more significant, but whether small or large the decisions we take affect our lives. Some of them affecting us in small ways whilst others can completely change our lives.

One aspect of living a Christian life is how open are we to be guided by God in our decision making, of the direction we might take in the journey of our lives. I'm not of course talking here of needing to pray to God to ask for God's guidance in deciding whether or not to have that extra custard cream biscuit with our afternoon tea ( or maybe I should start?)

In the journey of our lives, individually and together as a church family, we maybe do well sometimes to take a moment to reflect upon the decisions we are to make. I do this often myself as I'm a very reflective person and when I take a moment to think about things, I'm minded of the guidance we are given in the Book of Psalms where it acknowledges about God;

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. ( Psalm 119 v105)*

And also where the person who wrote Psalm 32 might be thinking of how God can help us in our time of decision making;

*I will instruct you and teach you the way  
you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.(Psalm 32 v8)*

When we know we have to take decisions that affect maybe not only our own lives but also the lives of others, a question we might want to ask ourselves is whether we have been open to make space for God to be within our decision making? Eastertide gives to us once again a beautiful time to be open for God's light and guidance in our lives.

As I went to put the lawn mower away, thinking to myself what a good job I'd done, I had to go on the back garden and the lawns on the back, which are twice as big as those on the front, seemed to shout; "And what about us?"

Love & prayers  
Revd Neil

