

Reflection for Sunday 6 September 2020

Do you remember your first day at school? In my school they had 3 intakes – September; Christmas and Easter and you started at the one closest to your 5th birthday. All different now, as children start in September, when some are only just 4!

But a first day of anything is both an exciting and challenging experience. School brings the chance for learning, but who will your teacher be?, will they be strict? Who will your friends be? How will you find your way around? 2-3 weeks in and it's as if you have been there forever!

First day of work – where will my desk be? Who is my boss? Who are my colleagues – will I remember their names? What do I do? When can I have a holiday? When can I retire?!!

First day of retirement – so now what do I do? Can I really sleep in if I want to? What no commute? How much gardening can I do? When can I go back to work for a rest?!

We are facing lots of firsts at this time. First day of opening for churches for worship; first time venturing out to shops, café's etc after shielding; first holiday since lockdown. These are exciting and challenging times indeed.

Yes, care is needed to keep everyone safe, but the benefits of human contact (at a suitably social distance) are good for our social and mental health. Not everyone is ready for that, and we remember them and keep in touch in whatever way we can, so they are still included. But to reopen churches, to worship together corporately (within restrictions) is an exciting prospect.

But as with any first day, for some this is too far too soon. For some this day could not come soon enough. For some they can't decide.

So whether you are excited for returning to physical church; or apprehensive about leaving the house, know that you are part of a global community who care for you, who pray for you and look forward to meeting up with you when you are ready.

For as we know, the church is the people of God all working together to complete God's mission and bring his kingdom home.

Let us take one day at a time, our "first" days and our "many years in" days and offer all our joys and worries to God and know that God is alongside us in all that we do.

Keep safe

RevRuth