

CLERGY LETTER

Dear Friends

As some of you will know, things became a little fraught in the vicarage during the last Christmas period, or at least it did for the vicar herself. Why? Because it was at this, the busiest time in the year that my husband Graham was daft enough to slide down a grassy bank and break his ankle.



So, in addition to all of my Church duties, I was also having to take him for hospital appointments, walk the dog (twice each day) do all of the shopping (thank goodness for late night opening) and the vast majority of the cooking and cleaning. Now I have to admit, that I have never claimed to be a “domestic goddess”, so doing all of these household chores did not come naturally. However, I soon realised that if I was going to have to find the time to make one meal for the pair of us, I might as well spend just a little more time and make three or four and freeze some for another day. To be honest, I was rather pleased with my efforts.

Wind the clock forward a few weeks. Graham’s ankle has mended and he is once again able to do all the things that he had done before, which means that I no longer have to. So it came as quite a surprise the other evening when he said “You’re getting stressed again, I think

you should stop and do some cooking.... didn’t you notice how you relaxed when you were cooking before?” Although I hadn’t noticed it at the time he was right – despite all the other pressures around me, I had relaxed when I was in the kitchen doing something that, in the past, I had not

really enjoyed. Why was that I wondered.

To be honest, there are probably several reasons, not least the fact that it gave me the opportunity to step back and concentrate on something else.

However, I think that there is also another reason – one that has to do with the fact that we are all made in the image of God. Many of you will have heard me say that this image is primarily an image of love, although I am sure that this is the most important aspect of God’s character it’s not the only one, there are others and each one of them is meant to be reflected in our own lives if we are to find real fulfilment.

In my case, the aspect of God’s character that I was reflecting was creativity. Although I know that there is some debate about how and how long it took – all Christians, as well as those from a number of other faiths, believe that God created the earth and everything in it and on it. We also

believe that at regular intervals, he stopped and assessed everything and congratulated himself on a job well done. By creating a number of reasonably tasty meals, I had been creative and I had also felt a sense of satisfaction in the results of my efforts. A very small reflection of God's creativity I know, but a reflection all the same.



"The vicar's looked at the weather forecast and is preparing us for another roof-appeal."

which we can do this, creating a beautiful garden or tub of flowers, coming together and creating lovely music, baking a cake, painting a picture, decorating a room or creating a warm and comfortable space in our homes.....the list goes on and on. My prayer for you all this month, is that each of

you will find time to appreciate doing at least one of these.

We all deal with the difficulties and stresses of life in different ways, however, this incident has shown me the importance of finding time to remember that by being made in God's image we were intended to be creative and that we cannot really find true fulfilment until we recognise this and act upon it. There are so many ways in

But there is one thing in particular that I would also like to create – an active, supportive and growing Church community within our villages. Will you help me to do this?

With every Blessing for the coming month

Thane

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The final deadline for the submission of material is the 14th of the preceding month. Acceptable formats for articles are MS Word, MS Publisher or text files. PDF files can sometimes be used, but as their proportions cannot be altered without distortion, they can't always be used. Suitable picture formats include: Jpeg, BMP, PNG, GIF, etc.