



Dear Friends,

After so long not mixing together it's been a delight to have the return of some long missed events. In June *Fenny Compton Tots & Toddlers* started again in its usual Wednesday morning slot in the village hall from 9.45am to 11.45am. It's been lovely to see the children grow in confidence from nervous little ones not used to other people to mischievous playful toddlers. In August, we met in the vicarage garden, enjoyed the summer weather and a change of scenery with different outdoor activities.

Over the summer I've officiated at 7 weddings and nine christenings/baptisms. All were very memorable but one double baptism was quite different from the usual. The Church of England traditionally baptises babies and children who are encouraged to confirm their faith and wish to follow Christ in a Confirmation Service later as an adult. However, over the years I have baptised several adults but these have all have been done in church by the font. This summer one couple requested a full immersion baptisms. A practice followed by the early Christians and one chosen today by several Christian denominations, including the C of E. My confusion as to where to do this was easily solved when my neighbours Emma and Rob kindly offered the use of their swimming pool. It was a beautiful sunny day as I blessed the water before a clergy friend and I (in full clergy robes!) joined the couple in the pool. We all braved the unheated water to immerse each of them 3 times, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I was told that the pool of Holy water was later emptied onto Emma's vegetable garden. I wonder if that will result in a bumper harvest?!!

The end of August and September heralded the return of community hospitality.

- On 30th August we had the return of the *Bank Holiday Teas at All Saints' Burton Dassett*. Thank you to all who ran it, attended and made it such a hospitality and fundraising success.
- On 11th September we had a very successful *Afternoon Tea* in the marquee at the Lodge at Fenny Compton. Thank you to Bino Polk for such a lovely venue, to all who attended and all involved in running it.
- In September there was the introduction of the new monthly *Pop-up Coffee Shop in Northend* - with barista coffee, pastries and cakes. A community not a church event which will be running 10 til noon on the 2nd Tuesday at Northend Village Hall and 4th Tuesday at the Chapel of Ease.
- *Just-a-Bite* started up again in Fenny Compton village hall on its new monthly date of the 3rd Monday - 12 til 1.30pm. A community lunch for all ages. Whether your working from home and need a break, or fancy time to catch up with friends over a light lunch - try it.

It's been lovely to be able to mix again and enjoy each other's company. Hospitality, eating meals and socialising plays a significant role in Jesus ministry - to connect and share with those around us is so important to our health and well-being - 'Bon Appetite!'

*Rev'd Nicki*