

## Smiles

What have you been missing?

I've been missing those spontaneous smiles that happen when you meet a friend, pass a stranger in the street and many other unaccounted situations that make up a day. Smiles burst onto our faces – they are uncomplicated, spontaneous shared moments of recognition, of value, of humour, of humanity.

Before lockdown we hardly noticed these occasions. Since lockdown their absence tells us something. I think smiles nurture our souls.

Over these weeks I've been part of zoom meetings and enjoyed talking on the phone with people. When I hear someone's voice in real time my face responds – and – what joy if I can hear or see the other person smiling too.

These are some more pics of St Stephen's, the poster with Autumn leaves has been in the church since last year. A reminder of God's smile of love holding us in God's gaze no matter what.

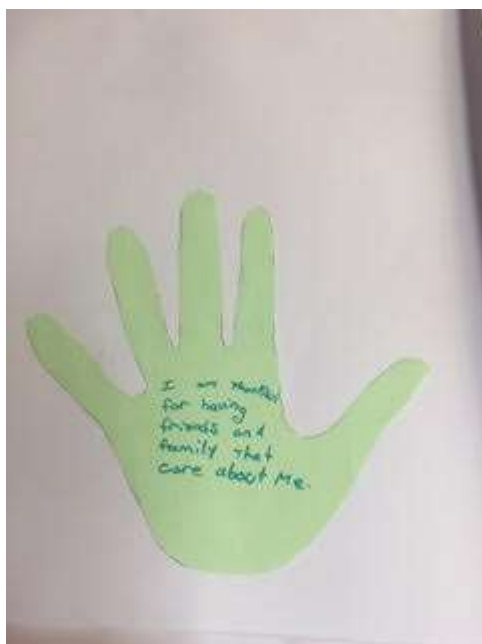
This Easter season is about joy.

Whose smiles have nurtured you over the years?

Let's think of a time when a smile picked us up, encouraged us, told us that we are OK.

Let's give thanks for that person.

Let's accept the warmth of God's smile shown in God's creation, in the voice of friend or stranger, that shines in the darkness.



Times of Change



God says

When you walk through deep  
water, I will be with you  
do not be afraid.