



**St Mark's Church, Reigate**

March 2026

**Letter from the Associate Priest, Reverend Reginald Grant**

Dear Beloved Brother and Sisters,

I will start my thoughts by telling you something you may not know about me, I am an Elton John fan. My favourite song is Rocket man, and my least favourite is, "Sorry seems to be the hardest word". I never understood, in my youth, why sorry would be hard to say, but as I have gotten older, I get it. Sorry is easy to say, but changing the behaviour that led to having to say sorry is much harder.

Repentance or changing is not a simple thing. In Luke 14:28-30 Jesus asks us to count the cost of discipleship, but do we count the cost of repentance? Changing behaviours that are ingrained in us is hard and understanding why we need to change maybe even harder. It is not enough to say I am sorry, we need to do the soul searching that leads us to understand why we were wrong. People and institutions struggle when they have to own up to the sins they commit, whether intentionally or accidentally. Sorry is a hard word to say and change is even harder.

Lent is a season of repentance and reflection. It is a time when we should look within ourselves as a church and ask where have I gone wrong? Where do I need to change? How can I serve God better? It is easy to say I will give up chocolate for Lent to remember the fasting of Jesus the wilderness, but a lot harder to say I will reflect on my relationship with God and my fellow man and seek to make my relationship better. It is hard because as people and as a church admitting where we have gone wrong feels like admitting to failing.

In Romans 3:23, we are reminded that all have sinned and fallen short. We all need to repent. The true failing is denying our humanity, our brokenness, because in that brokenness we can meet God and grow.

Sorry is a hard word to say, but this Lent let us come before God and say sorry so that we can grow and become better people and a better church. Genuine repentance is hard because growth is hard but it is worth it.

Beloved, I ask you to have the courage to grow and become closer to God in this season.

May God's grace be with you,

*Reverend Reg*