



Nestling among the trees on its hill-top site All Saints Church is visible from the road, the railway and the river – a sign of the presence of God in the village of Creeksea.

It has stood there, in one form or another for centuries, comforting its congregations of farmers and farriers, labourers and lovers, seamen and soldiers, daughters, wives and mothers, the very young and the very old. To them we owe a debt of gratitude for caring for our lovely church, for ensuring that it has been available to everyone at all stages of their lives.

Until this lockdown there was only one other occasion when the churches in England were closed for worship – and that was in 1208 when King John refused to accept the Pope's appointment of Stephen Langton as Archbishop of Canterbury. The Pope issued an Interdict which closed the churches and forbade the ringing of church bells. The only services permitted then were baptisms. There were no weddings and no burials in consecrated ground for six years as it was not lifted until 2014

But then as now the people, bereft by the separation, still took comfort from the physical presence of the church building as a reminder that God was still there among them even if they could not approach him in worship. As we see the church from road, rail or river, we too are reminded that God is with us, wherever we are and however we feel. We know that he cares for us and supports us in our daily lives, in our joys and our sorrows. And some time soon we shall be able to open those doors once again and find God waiting for us, waiting to welcome us home, and waiting to enjoy our worship.

Praise to the holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise,
In all his works most wonderful
Most sure in all his ways.

