Dear Friends,

In spite of what has happened to the building, which could have been so much worse, today is a special and joyful day.

The church, the living stones, is regathered in its building, after a long time away. The Eucharist – that great feast of thanksgiving – will be celebrated again by God’s people.

Richard will preside at an altar which has been damaged by a person who is damaged. And that reminds us all, very profoundly of the reason for being here. We come as frail and damaged people, created good, created in the image of God, but unable by ourselves to become the fulness and completeness of who we are. And the events which we commemorate and reflect on today and in the coming journey through Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter are the process by which God in Christ draws us, and all creation, to Godself, to God’s fullness.

We pray for the troubled soul of the person who did this, someone whose life is not going well. What you see when you look around you this morning, is a reminder of how much we all need the grace and mercy of God. And give thanks and praise that this is freely offered to us. Nothing can separate us from God’s love.

You are all in my prayers today and this Holy Week. May God bless and keep you.

+Olivia