

St. John's House,
Sudbrooke Drive,
Ermine Estate,
Lincoln.

18th April, 1956.

Dear Neighbours,

May I take this opportunity to say how happy my wife and I are to have joined you on this great Ermine Estate. And what friendly folk you are! Its only just over a week since we arrived, and yet we already feel quite at home.

There's something rather exciting about being on a new estate. We all share the same experience of having left our old homes and surroundings, and the future is just whatever we make it. Many of you I know feel rather lonely, having left your old friends behind, but within our christian fellowship together we shall be continually making new friends.

As priest-in-charge of this Estate I hope to be the friend of you all. If any of you are sick or in any trouble then please let me know or come and see me at St. John's House. In order that we may come to know each other more quickly I shall wear a cassock when visiting in the parish, and then you'll easily recognise me.

Babies to the left of us! Babies to the right of us! If there is one thing that we can depend on finding on a new estate, its babies! God gives us these little lives to bring up for him, and I look forward to meeting many of you as you bring your babies to St. John's to be baptised. Holy Baptism is such a wonderful gift to us, for there at the font our children are given God's life, and made members of His Family.

God's second great gift to us is the Holy Communion. Elsewhere you may notice that we call this service the Family Communion. We do this because the Communion is the service for the whole family. Come, and bring your children with you. If they are too young to sit with you then we will have some competent person to look after the toddlers and those in prams, in some other part of the building. Even if you have not yet been confirmed, do come to this service at 9.15.a.m. every Sunday, and come also to the Adult Confirmation Classes starting on Monday evening at 7.30.p.m.

For boys and girls, the training for confirmation starts with Baptism, and so we call all our Sunday Schools the Confirmation School, dividing it into infant, junior, and senior departments. Each year the top class of the senior department will be confirmed by the Bishop.

Coming as we do from many different parishes, we don't all know the same hymns and music for the church services. On Sunday ~~evenings~~ then at 6.40.p.m. we will practice some of the hymns together, that we may make our worship a worthy offering to God. Evensong will follow at 6.30.p.m.

May God richly bless every family of this Estate, and bring peace and joy to each one of us, building us up into a living fellowship, the Family of God.

Yours very sincerely,

John Hodgkinson