



Dear friends and parishioners,

We aren't encouraged to nail things onto church doors any more ... yet 500 years ago this month, a priest in Wittenberg in Germany did just that with a piece of paper containing the 95 revolutionary opinions that would begin the Protestant Reformation. This act, carried out by Martin Luther in defence of God's love and grace, began a series of changes which led eventually to the founding of Protestantism – a worldwide movement which encompasses our own Church of England.

Well, I could write a mini history lesson, but instead I am aware that this word, Reformation, if you take it apart, becomes the word 're-formed', so that this anniversary reminds us how we are all constantly being re-formed in the image of God. Deep in each of us lies the image of the person which we have it in us to be, the person who is constantly being loved into wholeness by God. And no matter what we do, or how we are, that goes on. God's love cannot be 'bought' by good behaviour – it simply 'is'. This interpretation was Luther's great genius and it revolutionised the Church.

We are celebrating 500 years since Luther's rebellious and creative act with a special Sunday service on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October at 10am at St. Mary's Kensworth. As ever, you are all warmly welcome!

With every blessing and my prayers, this autumn and always.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background. The signature reads "Nicola" in a cursive script, with a decorative flourish below it.