

Dear friends,

1) **WELCOME.** We welcome another new member to our ePew News list this week. Charmian Willis has signed up, that makes 63! And we look forward to seeing Charmian at our services too.

2) **JACKIE FOUNTAIN.** We will be pleased to meet Jackie Fountain, our new Curate, at our morning Service of the Word on Sunday morning at 10.30am. John H will be leading the Service and Jackie will be leading our prayers. Details of how the church is prepared are at the end of this PN.

3) **WEDNESDAY PRAYERS.** There is also an opportunity to come to St Mary's on Wednesdays any time between 2 and 4pm for a time of private prayer. There will be prayer resources around the church and Rev Pam McKellen will lead prayers at 3pm.

4) Message from **JO FAGEANT:** Jo's mum Helen has now been moved to the Argyles care home.

5) **St Mary's PCC.** Our PCC will be getting together via Zoom on 3rd August at 7.30pm*

6) **CHERUBS.** We are delighted to be able to let you know that the Cherubs Club for Mums, Dads, carers and toddlers will be reopening from September under the leadership of Chloe. They will meet on Tuesdays in term time in our Majendie Hall starting on 8th September. Chloe has been to Cherubs on and off for years; she's a Mum and a childminder and her Mum is also a childminder – so , with the support of 3 longstanding helpful team members, they will do a great job.

7) Members of the congregation have been kindly contributing items for Pew News recently. This week's is from Graham Loxton Best and he writes:

What Covid 19 has meant to me.

Being self-isolated for nearly four months, I have found that my life has very much slowed down, giving me time to contemplate being thankful for what I have in this wonky world we live in. In the words of a certain hymn "Glad that I live, am I". I have found time to carry out those jobs that would never have been actioned prior to lockdown, including clearing out the loft and finding the odd missing item, waxing and polishing the wooden stair bannisters, bringing filing and admin up to date, and sharpening the garden tools although my garden is fairly modest, I have planted some vegetables, runner and French beans, courgettes, cucumbers, cherry tomatoes and little gem lettuce. I have just "lifted" last season's garlic crop which is now hanging in the garage in true French style. Sheila has grown a number of herbs and salad leaves. We have also experimented with a number of new recipes owing to the shortage of ingredients at the the start of the pandemic. To

conclude, as the words of a song we use to sing at school (maybe a hymn): "God comes down in the rain and the crops do grow"

in my case let's hope so!!

Keep safe and well.

Graham

8) WHAT TO EXPECT AT OUR SERVICE ON SUNDAY

There are lots of different emotions, positive and negative, around the lifting of lockdown and we know that many will not feel able or be able to join us. However, we believe that we are ready to welcome those who would like to gather together physically, and to do so safely and in line with government and Church of England guidance. Here are some details so that you know what to expect:

THE SERVICE

Our service at 10.30am this Sunday is a Service of the Word. Due to the additional complexities about sharing communion safely, we are starting simply, but we do anticipate having a communion service during August.

There will be no singing, although we will pause and listen to some music during the service.

We will continue to provide our Pew News and 'Sabbath Sustenance' for the foreseeable future both via email and in the post for those not wishing to return to church in person.

PRACTICALITIES

Covid symptoms and shielding: Please do not come to church if you or anyone in your household has a temperature, a persistent cough, loss of taste or smell. Similarly, please do not come if you are shielding or have been given medical advice not to go into public spaces.

Numbers: The number we can accommodate is based on households and, at this stage, we are not booking ahead.

Entrance and stewarding: We will use the usual entrance and will ask people to sanitise their hands as they enter the building. Stewards will guide you to your pew, filling up from the front. We will aim to keep the doors open during the service to allow plenty of fresh air in.

Social distancing: Please keep 2 metres away from people outside your household.

Registering: The stewards will keep a list of everyone who attends. This is following government and Church of England advice. We will keep this list for 21 days.

Masks: Masks are not compulsory. However, you are welcome to wear one if it helps you feel more comfortable. The stewards will be wearing masks as they are likely to need to come closer than 2 metres to people.

Service sheets: We will use our usual Service of the Word booklets but isolate them after the service in a separate tray.

Collection: There will be no collection during the service, but a plate is available for any donations on exit.

Toilets and Church Hall: The toilets will be kept locked but will be available - please speak to a steward if you need to use the toilet.

Refreshments: We won't be serving refreshments at the end of the service.

Exit: The stewards will guide people to leave, one pew at a time from the front, using the one-way system through the Majendie Hall. Please sanitise your hands on exit and make your way out of church. If you wish to have a conversation in the churchyard, do ensure that you keep 2m distance.

Best wishes to you all, and I hope to see some of you on Sunday, Mavis

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