



Dear friends,

The corona storm looks like it is passing for the time being, and after rain we delight to spot a rainbow in the mist reminding us of God's promise in Genesis 9. As we know, St Mary's has survived other storms in its existence. We thank God particularly for his blessings during this one.

"I cannot tell, how all the lands shall worship,
When at his bidding every storm is stilled..... And some glad day his sun shall shine in splendour"

It so happens that Keith Hardman has chosen this hymn for this week. It begins: "I cannot tell, why he who angels worship". Click on the blue line below (and then click on "skip adds" in the right hand bottom corner) to sing along.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XDEgli4aQDo>

You are all welcome to make suggestions for hymns.

2) IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM REV JOY MAWDESLEY RE OPENING

We are very pleased that St M's is open this Sunday 28th from 10.30-11.30 for private prayer. You are most welcome to come and join us in church for some or all of that time. Janice's usual Sunday resources will be available for your use.

Things will be a little different though in order to ensure that church is a safe place for all:

- Please sanitise your hands on arrival and departure using the hand sanitiser available.*
- If you are happier with a face covering, please do bring your own, although there are some available at church.*
- Under the present requirements, there needs to be a distance of 2m between people. Some pews are cordoned off in order to ensure that this happens. Please share the pew with people from your own household.*
- We have put a one way system in place around church to ensure a flow through the building.*

The current guidelines (both church and government) are that if you are in the clinically extremely vulnerable group and are still shielding, then you should remain at home. If you are in a vulnerable group (which includes the healthy over 70s) the advice is that you stay at

home as much as possible, but that if you do go out, you minimise contact with those outside your household and, of course, part of this is to observe social distancing. We would love people to join us at St Mary's on Sunday, but please only come if you feel confident in this decision.

..... we're also glad that we shall be opening the church on Wednesdays from 2-4, beginning on Wednesday 1st July. Thanks to those who have already volunteered.

Pam will be coordinating this and will be in touch with the volunteers to sort out a rota and to give you any necessary info. If you need to contact her, her no is 01635 864274.

You will be aware that the government have now said that churches can hold services from Sunday 5th July. Further Church of England guidance is still awaited on this and we have yet to decide how soon we will hold our first service here at St Mary's. So watch this space!

Joy Mawdesley

It might be a good idea to take a copy of Janice's Sabbath Sustenance with you and there may well be other printed material to assist in private contemplation.

We will shortly be permitted to hold a church service, but with no singing, (bah) and our PCC are discussing the implications of this which are many and varied so this will not happen quite yet at St Mary's. We are allowed to make our own decisions, within the Government guidelines, which reflect our local circumstances. MJH

3) OTHER CHURCH NEWS

MANY THANKS to Brian N's daughter's local company Smart Blinds and Shutters for their very kind donation of a quantity of PPE and Covid guidance signage to St. Marys. That support will help us a lot in organising our church for reopening.

WELCOME : I am delighted to welcome online yet another member of the St Mary's e-family. "Hallo, Robin Read!". That makes 62 addresses on my e-list some of which cover 2 people. Plus we have 9 who receive paper PN. If you know anyone who is not receiving Pew News and would like to do so, please let me know.

ROBIN READ has a number of large plastic storage boxes left over from his house move, which he really would like to pass on to give him more space. Pse ring him on 521756 if you could help here.

JO FAGEANT reports that her mother has now been moved to West Berks Hospital, where she feels a bit happier that she is in Newbury rather than further afield. She really hopes to come home soon. Of course Jo is not allowed to visit.

Best wishes to you all, Mavis

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