

Dear friends,

## **MESSAGE FROM JOY:**

### **WHAT TO EXPECT ON SUNDAY**

As you will know, we are preparing to hold services once more in St Mary's from this 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 '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 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.

Sorry that this is so long – but hopefully it will inspire confidence that coming to church will be a safe experience. We certainly don't want it to add to people's anxieties!

### **MESSAGE RE JANICE**

Janice's mother has had a complicated series of health issues which are continuing and taking a lot of time and energy so contact with parishioners has been affected. She sends love, hopes you understand and that you will hold her family in your prayers.

Janice has kindly prepared our Sabbath Sustenance this week as usual.

### **JACKIE BARR**

Jill Wilson has news of our good friend Jackie who used to come to St M's: Jackie has recently been Curate at the United Parish of Chinnor, Sydenham, Aston Rowant and Crowell. She is now Rector there.

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

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