



From Rev Tim Ward, Vicar of Walberton and Rector of Binsted

Dear Friends and Neighbours

Church is Changing Month 15

In response to the current situation we at St Mary's are taking the following measures in line with our vision, Loving God - Loving Community:

~Services in Church

Sunday public worship resumed on 7 March, as planned, at 10.30am. Groups of upto 6 people may now sit together sharing a pew providing they do not mingle with other groups and keep social distance from other groups. Obviously, there is an etiquette to this: people may prefer not to share a pew, so it is best to make arrangements before coming to church with the people that you want to sit with. We will maintain the 2m gap between used pews for the moment. There will be seating outside, weather permitting, where it is permitted to sing, We will be holding an Evening Prayer on 13 June at 6pm.

Attendance at weddings is presently limited to 30 people with social distancing. Church funerals (maximum for our building will be 30 people at present) are permitted and baptisms are allowed. Further announcements by the government are expected on 14 June as to the situation after 21 June.

We have also been broadcasting a simple service from St Mary's each Sunday morning at 9am. We use YouTube. The details of how to access this will be posted on our website home page. Or try searching 'StMary's Walberton' in YouTube. Service sheets on the website will not have the modern songs' words for copyright reasons. The full words will be available via the weekly ChurchSuite email. If you are not on ChurchSuite, please email vicar@stmaryswalberton.org.uk and ask for your email address to be put on the ChurchSuite data base. If you are worshipping at home do look for the sheet on making a spiritual communion without the sacrament.

~ Prayer

If you would like immediate prayer support please contact our Churchwarden Jean Strickland on 01243 552825.

Pastoral visiting, such as home communion and prayer for the sick, is now available preferably outdoors but indoors, if necessary. Please speak to Tim.

House of Prayer. Our weekly Parish Prayers continues via Zoom. If you want to take part, please email houseofprayer@stmaryswalberton.org.uk and ask to be added

to the ChurchSuite email list. You will then receive a link via email enabling you to join the prayer meeting on Tuesday mornings at 8.30am.

Building our House of Prayer: Do also look at the prayers in the House of Prayer on the website. If you have a prayer of your own that you are finding helpful during these challenging times, then please do share it and support us, as we reach out to the community. email houseofprayer@stmaryswalberton.org.uk

~ Financial Help

For those facing financial hardship we are using The Walberton, Binsted and West Barnham Support Fund (Reg Charity 243280). The Support Fund is the parish charity run by the vicar, churchwardens and up to three trustees. It has an income of about £8,000 per year. We currently have about £9,000 in reserve. We can make emergency grants of up to £200 as well as other more regular grants. We usually do so through food vouchers or paying heating bills. A few years ago we changed the qualification for help from being 'sick and poor' to 'sick or poor'. The area of benefit is Walberton, Binsted and West Barnham (up to the railway bridge). People need to live, work or attend primary educational establishments or community organisations or churches in the area of benefit. If you know of anyone who is financially struggling - especially anyone who is under the Statutory Sick Pay threshold for earnings of £118 per week - and has lost their income, then, please, do let me know by phone or letter, preferably asking them first (01243 551488). For this and other local resources Email: help@stmaryswalberton.org.uk

~ Volunteering and Practical help

We have a list of church members willing to assist the housebound. We would encourage you to help your immediate neighbours without referring to the church. But if there is no one to help you then please contact help@stmaryswalberton.org.uk

This service is open to all villagers as recipients. Volunteers should expect to fill out a simple self-declaration form and be registered by the Parochial Church Council. Volunteers should expect to buy goods out of their own pockets and then be reimbursed on delivery of the goods with a receipt. A log of all contacts must be kept. Entering houses will not be part of this role as that would require a DBS check.

~ Church Office

The Church Office at Unit G, William Booker Yard, The Street is manned on Tuesdays by Carole and Thursdays by Jill from 9am - 11am. Please knock and wait at the door, then take two steps back. The phone 552792 is now redirected to the vicarage at weekends.

I hope all that makes sense. Do contact me at my email or phone below. May God bless you and your families at this time. May we discover resources within our community that we didn't realise we had and be a blessing to each other.

Yours in Christ

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