



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

Dear Friends and Neighbours

Church is Changing Month 25 April 2022

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

The government is now normalising the situation and has removed the requirement for Covid risk assessments in workplaces and withdrawn its testing and tracing programme. This is because, for the fully vaccinated, the Omicron variant is proving to be a less severe disease. The government suggests people wear a mask when in a crowded space or when in close contact of less than 1m but this is voluntary. We will continue to offer hand sanitisation and good ventilation but along with most other churches will now drop the social distancing requirements for most pews in the nave.

If you have cold like symptoms of a runny nose sore, throat headache, fever cough etc this may well be Covid and so we would ask you please to take a week off from worship at St Mary's.

We have been broadcasting a simple service from St Mary's Sunday morning at 9am monthly. The next service will be Easter Day. 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 office@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. Please speak to Tim.

House of Prayer. Our weekly Parish Prayers continues via Zoom. If you want to take part, please email office@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 office@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 perhaps because of rising fuel bills, 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

~ Church Office

The Church Office at Unit G, William Booker Yard, The Street is manned on Tuesdays to Fridays from 9am -11am. Please wear a mask if in close contact of less than a metre.

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.

Yours in Christ

Tim Ward

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