



*Greetings from all of us at St Mary's
- and especially
from the Ministry Team!*

This would have been the week for us to publish the April Parish Magazine. Sadly, this is not possible as we cannot easily access the Office to print and circulate. However, we have managed to put together some material available on our website (portseaparish.co.uk) and Social Media ([PortseaParish](https://www.facebook.com/PortseaParish)).

The last few days have been on one level very difficult – closing the churches for public use and worship, not being able to visit Home Communicants and not being able to see people at services or social events and activities. I am sure we have each struggled at times to adjust to this new way of living and faced various fears and worries. For me (and I think from others I have spoken with) this has been balanced by a deeper awareness of Christ's presence, a deepening of our lives of prayer and a greater sense of being part of a caring community. Amidst the worry and fear there have been moments of light and hope ... and laughter!

I would like to thank my colleagues, both lay and ordained, who have been supporting each other and the ministry we are able to offer. As a Parish we are committed to being a people of prayer and care and this has been clearly expressed in a number of ways.



*Welcome to Revd Sam – who was licensed by
Archdeacon Gavin on March 22nd*

In case you have not heard there are ways that we can all be united in being a people of prayer

Pause and Pray

Each day we are inviting you to **pause and pray with us at 9am and 5pm**. There is a simple service available at portseaparish.co.uk which is similar to the ones we use daily as a Ministry Team and we hope it will help. Alternatively, at those times simply be still and either light a candle, or read a short passage of scripture and be aware of Christ's presence with you as light in the darkness, and also be aware of the love and support of all those praying with you at that time.

You may also want **at the end of the day use Night Prayer** giving thanks for the day ending and asking for Christ's presence with you through the night.

If you would like any further help or support with your prayers then please do let us know and we will get it to you.



Also each day at **Noon we are sharing a celebration of the Eucharist 'Christ in our Homes'** streamed to our webpage from the Vicarage. You will find the links at portseaparish.co.uk. Please do join us – you can watch the celebrations live or play a recording at any time of the day.

Likewise on **Sundays we are celebrating at 10am** and there will be special celebrations on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

If you want details or help to access please contact us.



We are aware that for some online access will not be possible so we have also set up **a phone line which has the recordings of the Daily Reflections** we are providing alongside the Eucharist. There are 6 options – myself, Revds Sue Sam, & Marcus, Mthr Charlotte and Canon Bruce. You simply dial in, select the option and then you can listen to the reflection. They last between 5 & 10mins and the call costs 1p per minute (from a landline). **The number to call is 02393 190 916.** The reflections will be updated every Wednesday and Sunday.



We are also seeking to be a people who show God's care in action.

We have been calling all vulnerable isolating people that we know of and enquiring if we can help in anyway. We have a small group of people who have offered to help – and they are assisting people with collecting shopping, picking up prescriptions, and getting other essential items. If we can't assist then we are able to access the HIVE help desk covering the city and we will work with them to help you.

If you are vulnerable or know someone who is vulnerable and need help don't hesitate to contact us. There are sufficient supplies of everything in the City and we will happily help you to have what you need. Also if you are

