

Greetings from all at St Mary's - especially from the Ministry Team!



It does not seem possible that it is only a fortnight ago that we sent out our last newsletter!

On one level it feels very recent, but on another it feels a long time ago. We hope you are managing to find a rhythm and pattern to your days and that all is well with you.

You continue to be in our thoughts and prayers – and we continue to keep in touch by phone and email and we will continue to send a regular mailing to you.



I am sorry to say that since the last newsletter we have heard of 2 deaths. **Fr Terry** has been part of the ministry team of the Parish for many years – although in recent years has been unable to preside or preach due to ill health. He through our Home Communion visits and in many other ways managed to keep in touch with all that was happening. He will be remembered for his faithful service, his humour, and his interest in so many things relating to our community and city.



Then last week we also heard that **Fred Moore**, a lifelong member of St Wilfrid's, died peacefully at home after a long illness.

Fred will be missed in so many ways – his commitment and support of the life of the Parish was expressed in so many ways.

His wry sense of humour will also be a loss. He was also active in the scouting movement for many years and loved working on his allotment with

Jean.

Please remember her and their family also in your prayers. **His funeral is booked for Weds 13th May at 1.30pm.**

So we have **provide a simple form of service you can use at home** ([available here](#)) at the time of the Funeral to join us in remembering him.

We will also be **streaming a short service at that time** on Facebook and You Tube if you wish to join us (the links will be available on www.portseaparish.co.uk).



Friday May 8th as well as being VE 75 day would also have been **the May Fayre** ...I am sure like me you have lots of memories of that great event – and we are encouraging you at home to mark the day and VE Day with some bunting or decorating – and perhaps having your own indoor May Fayre – what would you do to mark the event?

If you are able please send us a picture or let us know when we talk with you about what you might do.



The following week is Christian Aid Week and we attach some material about that for you to read and pray about. **Saturday 16th** would have been our Big Breakfast at St Faith's to raise funds.

Why not join us at the same time with a Big Breakfast at home and send a donation to Christian Aid (either direct or via us) to support the important work they are doing at this time.

The Facebook Quiz on Thursday 14th will also be Christian Aid focused and if you enjoy taking part why not make a donation to support Christian Aid?

We have attached a link – you can make an 'e donation' and see material online ...

https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/?utm_source=christianaid&utm_medium=email&utm_content=btn-body-CAWEnvelope&utm_campaign=20200427-CA-CHU-Resources

Also, to remind you of the ways that we can all be united in being a people of prayer:

Each day we are inviting you to

pause and pray with us at 9am and 5pm.

There was a simple service in the previous mailing – if you would like another copy please let us know. Also if you want more details of suggested readings etc then tell the person who next calls you.

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 be aware of the love and support of all those praying with you at that time.

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 (www.portseaparish.co.uk) from the Vicarage.

If you have access to the **YouTube Channel on your TV** then you can also share in the celebrations by searching for the 'Portsea Parish' videos.

Likewise, on **Sundays we are celebrating at 10am**

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

If you want some support with what you might be able to access and would like a 'buddy' to talk you through the technology via a phone call or email

Then some of our younger people are happy to help you – again just let us know and we will set it up.

In addition to this there is also the access to the daily reflections via **a phone line which has the recordings of the Daily Reflections** we are providing alongside the Eucharist.

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.



The National Church is also now offering a free call line 'Daily Hope' with music, prayers and reflections. To access please call **0800 804 8044**

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

On your behalf I would like to thank my colleagues and the small group of people who have offered to help us –they are assisting people with collecting shopping, picking up prescriptions, and getting other essential items as well as making regular phone calls. 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.

Please don't wait for us to contact you, or hesitate to ask, there is sufficient supplies of everything in the city and we will happily help you to have what you need.

Also, if you are worried, or uncertain about anything, then just pick up the phone and call us or leave a message – my phone numbers is at the end of this letter.

As before I need to end mentioning that as a Parish our finances have been severely affected by the loss of income from bookings and events such as the May Fayre, as well as the weekly giving through the plate. Thank you to those who have already generously responded to this request If you would like to support us in continuing to do all we are doing and would like to make a donation, either send a cheque payable to 'St Mary's PCC' to the Vicarage or please contact me for details on how best to do this.

Can I end again by thanking all who are helping us as the community of faith – and to reassure you of your thoughts and prayers at this time



With best wishes

Father Bob

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