

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

Please see the link to our sharing of the peace ...

<https://youtu.be/RXtBsWvyDZI>

Since we last contacted you there has been a number of announcements.



Firstly we have some good news. Rev'd Sam shared with the Parish the great news that she has become engaged to Lionel. We wish them and their families all our love and surround them with our prayers at this time.



Also there has been good news from the Heritage Lottery Fund. We have been successful in our application for a significant award to carry out the restoration of the Organ at St Mary's and the associated community work with schools etc.

This is exciting news, particularly as we have now signed an agreement with a contractor Nicholsons and they will begin the removal of the organ in the Autumn.

Thank you to the team who have worked on this and particularly to Matt Dixon, who has led the application.

We are arranging a 'Thank You message' from all of us to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Lottery players – we are taking pictures of us holding a Thank You [available here](#). If you would like to join in, please print off the image and send us a selfie of you holding it.



Sadly other announcements have not been such positive news. It became clear that the City Council were not giving permission for large events to take place in August.

It is unlikely that large gatherings will be possible for some time under current social distancing guidance. So we have decided to postpone the May Fayre which we had hoped to hold on 15th August to next year.

This clearly has an impact on our finances as a Parish, but we hope we can gather next May and celebrate together.

Also we have had to announce that SWISHERS ftc will not be re-opening and that after many years serving the young families of the area it will be closing down.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have worked for SWISHERS ftc and all who have supported it, but especially to Joy and Arthur Tagg for their commitment, care and service over a long period.

We will be (once we are able) finding a way to mark and celebrate the closure and their work. Please hold all affected by this decision in your prayers.



Over the coming weeks there will be steps taken to ease lockdown – and as we have already seen this will bring with it a number of questions and a variety of responses.

We want to reassure you that we will be following all the advice that surrounds worship and opening churches and will seek to do what we believe to be the best for us as a community, meeting needs while ensuring the lowest amount of risk to those who are involved. The opening for private prayer will be the first step and we are seeking to open St Mary's, only, with regular cleaning and clear signs as to what is possible from 9am – Noon each day.

Until the guidance on streaming services change (at present just one priest and their household are allowed in for such celebrations) we will continue as we are streaming from the Vicarage.

If you have any question or concerns please do get in touch.



You will see in the leaflet [available here](#) that we are inviting everyone to turn June into a month of Kindness, and we encourage you to join us each week (and even each day) in an act of kindness – we would love to hear from you what you are doing, or any stories you have about acts of kindness.

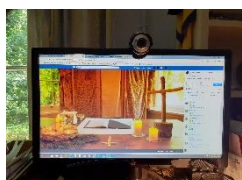


We would also like to remind you of a resource of a small book of prayers which we hope you will find useful.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/20165>

You can use this to join with us each day as we pause and pray at 9am and 5pm.

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.



Also each day at **Noon** we are still sharing a celebration of the Eucharist

: **‘Christ in our Homes’** streamed to our webpage (www.portseaparish.co.uk) from the Vicarage. You can also pick up the live stream on our [Facebook Page](#).

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 and watch at any time..

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

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

In addition to this there is also the access to the daily reflections from the Ministry Team via a **phone line which has the recordings of the Daily Reflections** we are providing alongside the Eucharist. 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 offering a free call line ‘Daily Hope’ with music, prayers and reflections. To access please call **0800 804 8044**

Thank you to all from the Church who are to helping us with our worship, care and contacting of everyone.

Please don’t wait for us to contact you, or hesitate to ask, there are 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 – contact details are at the end of this letter.

As mentioned earlier the cancelling of the May Fayre and loss of fund raising and hire of the Churches mean we will ‘lose’ £30,000 income this year.

Thank you to those who have sent in donations etc. 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 (address below) or please contact me for details on how best to do this.



One person has been saving loose coins and has dropped them into the Vicarage. They used small pots and in these 3 small pots raised £33!

As always I end by thanking all who are helping us as the community of faith (including you for your prayers and support) – and to reassure you of your thoughts and prayers at this time



With best wishes

Father Bob

Revd Canon Bob White

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