

Future Shape: May 2021

As we begin to take the steps from lockdown, and as a society, we discern what our communities will be like and how we will learn to live with COVID it is appropriate that we as a Parish community reflect on the year that is past and what influence that will have on us as we move forward.



We are all aware that the experience of COVID and the various lockdowns has been significant, both on us as individuals and as communities.



It would be wrong to assume that on 21st June (or any arbitrary date) we will simply flick a switch, and all will be as it was, and we simply pick up what we were doing and carry on.

We need to be honest about the fact that we

have changed and been changed by the events and experiences of the last 18 months.

There is a further consideration, as we plan for the future, which is the wider picture. The national church has been considering for a number of years the best way to use our clergy and our buildings.



There is a need to move to a better use and management of our resources to ensure they serve God and us, rather than constraining who and what we are.

COVID has highlighted these pressures and have exacerbated the situation – particularly with regard to finance and resources.

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Alongside all of this there have been many positive aspects for the last few months.

As a Parish we have been able to focus on our vision and sought ways to be with God, with each other and the rest of creation.

We have discovered how we can share our life of prayer and worship online and through social media.

We have reshaped our liturgy and use of space to respond to the situation we are in.

We have focused on the importance of pastoral care and contact with each other.

We have a stronger sense of being a community and serving a wider community.

We need to reflect on the positive lessons of the pandemic as well as the challenges.

As a result from 30th May (Trinity Sunday) we will make some changes:

Private Prayer and Public Worship

St Mary's will continue to be open each weekday (Monday to Friday) from 9am – Noon for Private Prayer

At **Noon** on **Monday, Wednesday and Friday** at **St Mary's** there will be a **Eucharist** (which will continue to be streamed - for instructions on how to access live streams please see below).



In addition, on **Tuesday at 9.30am at St Faith's** and on **Thursday at 10.30am at**



St Wilfrid's there will be a Eucharist (these will not be streamed)

There will be a **streamed reflection** around Noon on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**.

We will be ceasing Saturday Stillness with thanks to Canon Bruce for his contributions over the last year.

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Sundays there will be services at **8am and 10am at St Mary's;**
9am at St Faith's and 11am at St Wilfrid's.

Young Families



We have begun to resume our monthly service and activities in St Mary's Church with tables and craft for families to share in. If your family would like to take part do contact me.

The next one will be on **20th June.**

Coffee and Chat in the Churchyard



As we are permitted to meet in groups of up to 30 together outdoors (socially distanced) You can gather and catch up with others at **Coffee and Chat in St Mary's Churchyard each Monday and Friday at 11am.**

This will mean you could stay on at the end for the Noon service if you wish.

We also hope there will be a chance for Coffee and Chat at St Faith's on a Tuesday and St Wilfrid's on a Thursday after the service. Do contact me if you would like to attend.

In June we will also host a picnic lunch on a Wednesday at St Mary's for those who wish to meet and catch up. Let me know if your family would like to take part.

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Weddings and Christenings



We will be setting up a new opportunity for people to **'Just Ask'** about arranging christenings or weddings.

This will be on **Saturdays at 10am** – anyone is welcome to come and join us for a coffee as we welcome those who come to make arrangements.

Being with others

We want to ensure that everyone can come and feel they are entering a safe space.

So, for the moment we will **not be permitting any physical contact at the sharing of the peace** in the churches.

Likewise, please **be aware of others and respect their space** outside of the church – not everyone will want to be hugged!

Once the social distancing rules change, we will also ensure that in each church there continues to be an area that retains social distancing and those who wish to can sit and communion will be brought to that area.

We will explain more of this when the moment comes.

Other events

Saturday May 29th 10am Christian Aid Big Breakfast This will be at St Mary's (hopefully in the churchyard) – a chance to enjoy the legendary Bacon butties from St Faith's and help raise funds for Christians Aid.

Sunday May 30th 4pm Music Foundation Concert at St Mary's. An opportunity to hear a selection of live music in person for the first time this year - not to be missed!

Friday June 4th 11am Coffee and Chat for Volunteers week. If you volunteer – or would like to volunteer – in anyway for the Church or Organ Project,

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then come along and hear more.

Sunday June 6th 4pm Evensong & the Dickens Fellowship at St Mary's:
Preacher Kitty Price

Monday June 7th 7pm Parish Annual General Meeting – We hope with Fish and Chips in Churchyard!

Thursday June 10th 7.30pm Online Organ Recital given by David Cain for the Organ Project

Our discussions have reflected on how we have developed a deeper sense of being a community together and valued what we have and our life of prayer and worship.

I hope that we can build on this and continue to ensure that we continue to be aware of one another and support each other as we move on from the current situation.

We are very aware that we will each need to do that in a way that is comfortable for us and that we will each have our own feelings and fears about what we can and can't yet do.

Please do share with the Ministry team any concerns or questions you have so that we can be aware of them as the plans for development are prepared.

If you were a regular user of giving envelopes and would like a supply for the coming year, then please contact me and we will arrange a supply for you.

Or if you wish to support us by a regular donation then you can do so either by BACS payment or Standing Order or by sending a cheque.

If you want more details, please contact me.

The next few weeks will be challenging for all of us as we adapt to the changes around us. Please do continue to hold one another in your prayers and thoughts, and to be aware that are regularly prayed for by myself and colleagues in the ministry team.



With best wishes

Father Bob

Revd Canon Bob White

Vicar of St Mary's , Portsea and Area Dean of Portsmouth

St Mary's Vicarage

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Ordinary Time in Lockdown 3 Streamed Services

- Sunday Eucharist 10am from St Mary's
- Until 30th May: Said Eucharist Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at Noon
- From 30th May: Said Eucharist Monday, Wednesday and Friday at Noon.
- From 30th May: Streamed reflection on Tuesday and Thursday at Noon.

You can pick up live streams on our portseaparish.co.uk/live-services, our [Youtube Channel](#), or if you have a facebook account on the St Mary's Facebook page at facebook.com/PortseaParish. There is a Daily Reflection available at portseaparish.co.uk/daily-reflections each day.

The Sunday service sheet for Ordinary Time is [available here](#).

Worship in Church

- Sunday 8am Book of Common Prayer Communion St Mary's Church.
- Sunday 9am Eucharist at St Faith's Church.
- Sunday 10am Eucharist with choir at St Mary's Church which is streamed.

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- **Sunday 11am Eucharist at St Wilfrid's Church.**
- **Until 30th May: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at Noon said Eucharist at St Mary's Church.**
- **From 30th May: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at Noon said Eucharist at St Mary's Church.**
- **From 30th May: Said Eucharist Tuesday 9:30 am at St Faith's and Thursday 10:30am at St Wilfrid's.**

St Mary's is open Monday to Friday from 9am – Noon for private prayer.

As we are still in Lockdown, no mingling is permitted indoors, but it is allowed to chat with one group of up to 6 outdoors while maintaining social distance. **We will be asking everyone to simply enter the Church and sit down without pausing for conversations. At the end of the service the Priest will indicate how to leave in a staggered way so we can keep the exit routes clear and enable all present to simply and quietly walk out.** If you are able to join us please do help us and everyone to maintain and respect each other's space and follow any guidance given.

As before **if you wish to be at a service it will help us to know in advance** please contact myself (vicar@portseaparish.co.uk), or Revd Sam (assocvicar@portseaparish.co.uk) or Revd Sue (sue.whitelock@portseaparish.co.uk).

For special services see the [Events List](#).

Venues

St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, Portsmouth PO1 5PA. Tel: 023 9281 4444

Free parking in church grounds. Rail: Fratton station (0.6 miles). Bus 14, 18, 21 (3, 7, 23 stop nearby). Wheelchair access to church.

St Faith's Church, Crasswell Street, Portsmouth, PO1 1HT. Tel: 023 9282 7322

Parking: 1 hr free parking 9am-6pm in Crasswell Street and surrounding controlled streets, unlimited thereafter. Pay and display in Arundel Street 8am to 6pm, free thereafter. Rail: Portsmouth & Southsea (0.2 miles). Buses: 13, 14, 21 alight Canberra Ho on Arundel Street. City centre buses nearby. Wheelchair access to the church.

St Wilfrid's Church, George St, Portsmouth PO1 5RT. Tel: 023 9282 2687.

Parking: unrestricted parking in surrounding streets. Rail: Fratton (1 mile). Bus: 14 alight Langley Rd stop on New Road. Wheelchair access to the church.