

## *Stepping into May 2021*



This weekend (May 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>) we would have in another year been awash with Beer Barrels, cakes, plants and a host of other items as we marked out the churchyard and shifted tables and chairs for the May Fayre.

Sadly for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running we have had to cancel – and with uncertainties over what will be possible for large events in August we have decided to look to **May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022** for the re-launch of the May Fayre.

However, some planning is beginning in partnership with Fratton Big Local to host a weekend celebrating our life as a Parish and a community.

Full details will follow soon, but the hope is to hold **an indoor market in St Mary's Church on Saturday Aug 14<sup>th</sup>** – which will be compliant with any COVID guidance in place

– and then on **Sunday Aug 15<sup>th</sup>** (the Parish Patronal Festival) we will host a in the churchyard (again following all guidance that is in place).



As we move through May we will take the next step in the roadmap.

The PCC has set up a small working group to look at our next steps in the Parish.

They are also considering what we have learnt through the last months, to identify the things that we would wish to maintain or develop further as well as how best we shape our life together in the future.



We will share their thinking with you in the next mailing and will introduce things as we move from Eastertide into 'Ordinary Time'.

In the meantime we continue to seek to ensure that we are seeking to enable us all to share in our common life in as safe a way as possible.

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### **Private Prayer and Public Worship**



St Mary's continues to be open each weekday (Monday to Friday) from 9am – Noon for Private Prayer and at Noon there is a daily eucharist (which will continue to be streamed) if you hope to attend it helps us to know in advance if you are coming.

The Church will not be open on Saturdays (unless there is an event).

Sundays there will be services at 8am and 10am at St Mary's; 9am at St Faith's and 4pm at St Wilfrid's. Please contact me if you would like to attend in church. See below for information on how to access the 10am service live stream.

### **Young Families**



We will continue to offer the opportunity for our young families to meet on Zoom each Sunday at 11am – looking at the ROOTS material for each Sunday.

However we will also begin to resume our monthly service and activities in St Mary's Church with tables and craft for families to share in.

(This builds on the Good Friday service which was enjoyed by those there).

The first one will be on **Pentecost – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 11.30am. Please contact me if your family would like to attend.**

### **Coffee and Chat in the Churchyard**



As we are permitted to meet in groups of upto 6 – or 2 households – together outdoors (socially distanced) and after May 17<sup>th</sup> possibly larger groups.

You can gather and catch up with others at **Coffee and Chat in St Mary's Churchyard each Tuesday and Friday at 11am. It would help if you can contact me if you wish to attend.** This will mean you could stay on at the end for the Noon service if you wish. You can join a group of 6 people and enjoy a coffee

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outside the Vestry Hall. We are grateful to Rosie and Jackie for the support they have given.

Those who have shared in these have said how much they have valued and enjoyed the opportunity to meet.

In addition to these there are other opportunities

### **Other events**

**Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup> 10am Coffee in the Churchyard** – an opportunity for those who have met on Saturdays on Zoom to meet face to face in the churchyard. Let Ministry Team know if you hope to attend.

**Thursday May 6<sup>th</sup> 7pm Online Quiz** contact Revd Marcus for details

**7.30pm A streamed Organ Recital** given by Mark Dancer (as part of the Organ Project)

**Sunday May 9<sup>th</sup> After 9am service St Faith's AGM**

**Monday May 10<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Julian Prayer Group** meets at St Faith's

**Thursday May 13<sup>th</sup> 7pm Mass with Music for Ascension Day** at St Mary's (and live streamed)

**Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup> After 10am service St Mary's Church AGM**

**After 4pm Mass St Wilfrid's Church AGM**

**Monday May 17<sup>th</sup> Evening – Monday Men meet** contact Revd Marcus

([marcuscollie@portseaparish.co.uk](mailto:marcuscollie@portseaparish.co.uk)) for details

**Tuesday May 18<sup>th</sup> 6pm Zoom PCC Meeting**

**Thursday May 20<sup>th</sup> 7pm Online Quiz** contact Revd Marcus

([marcuscollie@portseaparish.co.uk](mailto:marcuscollie@portseaparish.co.uk)) for details

**Saturday May 22<sup>nd</sup> 9am Prayer Breakfast in the Churchyard** to reflect on our life of prayer and spirituality as we move out of lockdown. For catering purposes

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contact me if you wish to attend.

**Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup> 11.30am Young Families** celebration for **Pentecost at St Mary's** – crafts, activities and worship in a COVID safe way. Please let me know if your family would like to attend.

**Saturday May 29<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Christian Aid Big Breakfast** details and confirmation to follow.

**We hope you might join us for one or some of these!**

### **Thank yous**



We move closer to welcoming tenants into the Hope into Action house in the Parish.

Thank you for your support in helping turn the empty house into a home with the items we have been able to purchase through donations and Bake Book Sales – and a generous donation from Tesco Fratton.



Also thank you from Revd Sam and Lionel for the love, prayers and support they were surrounded by on their wedding day.

Thank you also to all who contributed to their cake and gift from the Parish – the sponsoring of some golden pipes on the Organ.

I continue to be grateful for the support of so many in the Parish. This is expressed in the work of those in the office, music team and ministry team.

The care and hospitality being overseen by Rosie and others.

The support given to each other through phone calls and social media.

We have developed a deeper sense of being a community together and valuing what we have and our life of prayer and worship.

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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.

I am also grateful for the generosity people have shown in so many ways – not least your financial support and donations.

The loss of the May Fayre will affect our Parish funds again this year and we are still managing the loss of some regular giving and other income from church or hall hire.

If you wish to support us and have not yet done so 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.

As we draw towards the end of the Easter season perhaps we can all reflect on the signs of new life that are around us and give thanks for the love and life of Christ  
within us and our community.



*With best wishes*

*Father Bob*

Revd Canon Bob White

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

St Mary's Vicarage, Fratton Road, Portsmouth PO1 5PA

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## Easter in Lockdown 3 Streamed Services

- Sunday Eucharist 10am from St Mary's
- Said Eucharist Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at Noon
- Saturday at noon is Saturday Stillness with music, a reading and prayers by the clergy and a reflection by Fr Bruce.

You can pick up live streams on our [portseaparish.co.uk/live-services](http://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](https://facebook.com/PortseaParish). There is a Daily Reflection available at [portseaparish.co.uk/daily-reflections](http://portseaparish.co.uk/daily-reflections) each day.

The Eastertide service sheet for Sundays is [available here](#).

The Eastertide mid-week service sheet 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.
- Sunday 4pm Eucharist at St Wilfrid's Church.
- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at Noon said Eucharist at St Mary's Church.

**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](mailto:vicar@portseaparish.co.uk)), or Revd Sam ([assocvicar@portseaparish.co.uk](mailto:assocvicar@portseaparish.co.uk)) or Revd Sue ([sue.whitelock@portseaparish.co.uk](mailto: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

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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.

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