

## *August Awakening 2021*



The announcements from the Government around July 19<sup>th</sup> have led to a shift in culture. We are no longer held accountable by regulations and restrictions. Instead, we are now all ‘responsible’ for the actions we take and the way we respond to COVID. However, although no legal regulation there are various documents of guidance and recommendation with encouragement to do certain things – both issued by the Government and the Church of England. It was reassuring most of these appeared on the Friday before we were due to implement on the Monday!



The PCC met to discuss the situation and how we as a Parish would respond. It was agreed that our guiding principle was to balance the various individual wants and wishes with the needs and weekly being of the whole Body of Christ. We have within our community the full spectrum of response – why can’t we just return to ‘normal’? through to ‘I don’t yet feel safe or comfortable being with others. – and a whole range of shades of thinking in between!

The PCC has approved a gradual change over the coming weeks – testing and checking how comfortable people feel and monitoring the wider context in society. **We will throughout the coming weeks always maintain in each Church areas set up and following the previous regulations – so please do come and sit there if you would feel ‘safer’ doing so.**

In general the following are the key steps:



We are requesting and advising that we continue to **wear face coverings for worship and while indoors**. If you wish to not wear a face covering, we ask that you respect one another and sit in the area at the front (East End). From **Sunday Aug 1<sup>st</sup>** St Mary’s will establish an area at the front of **some chairs in**

**rows** for those who wish to sit there.

**The West end of the Church will remain socially distanced.** St Faith's and St Wilfrid's will also review their seating.



**Singing** The **Choir** has returned to full numbers at St Mary's – and will be robed from Aug 1<sup>st</sup>. On **Aug 15<sup>th</sup>**, as we gather together to celebrate the Patronal at 10am, **we will all sing outdoors.** Then at St Mary's we

will have **congregational singing of first and last hymn** – those who wish to sing are encouraged to sit at the East end – respecting those who may not want to do so at the West end. St Faith's and St Wilfrid's will also review what they will sing.

**St Mary's Servers** On Sept 5<sup>th</sup> we will reintroduce robed servers (as well as clergy and ministers) beginning with the Parish Service on that day. If you would like to join the Servers team please contact Fr Bob.

**Young Families/Church** We will invite our young families to join us



for the Parish Service on Aug 15<sup>th</sup> at 10am then in September we will have one Sunday with a **gathering at 11.30am** and again in October. We will then review

what might be possible to arrange for activities during the main service from October Half Term.

**Communion: The sharing of the chalice** (common cup) is one of the areas of highest risk in potential transmission of the virus so we have decided to continue with communion in one kind and will further review in September. **Those sitting in rows of seats will be invited to come forward to receive standing** – please keep a respectful distance between one another. **Those seated at East end will continue to have communion brought to them.** The Ministers will continue to hand sanitise and wear face coverings to administer communion.



**Refreshments** - We hope to find ways to **reintroduce Tea and Coffee on Sundays.** At St Mary's this will be by using disposable cups that you

can collect as you leave via the South Porch and then mingle outdoors. **If you would like to join the team providing this – or have some ideas for St Wilfrid’s or St Faith’s please let us know.**

The PCC was also clear 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!

We appreciate that for some these moves will not be enough while for other they may be challenging and unsettling. **Please do let the Ministry know your feelings and thoughts and we will be adapting and developing as we believe is best for the common good.** We will update you each month of any changes that are proposed. **Please continue to show the care and respect for each other- and our worship and love of God – that you have shown in such depth over the past months.**



In the midst of all of this we also need to share with you the news of the **death of Pam Kennell** on July 25<sup>th</sup>. Pam was one of those key figures in our Parish community – Panto player, PCC member, Choir member (with an amazing ability to sing Bass!), May Fayre Arena co-Ordinator and so much more - her faith and her friendship shone through, and we will miss her in so many ways.



As we say goodbye to Pam – we also say welcome (back) to **Revd Kate Marlow**. We are delighted that Kate will be joining our ministry team as a self supporting minister. She will be licensed by the Archdeacon on **Sunday Sept 5<sup>th</sup> at a 10am service** for the whole Parish at St Mary’s. The service will be **followed by a Bar B Q** lunch and a chance for us to welcome her and to get to know our Archdeacon.

Our rhythm of Parish life will continue through August

### Private Prayer and Public Worship



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

At **Noon** on **Monday, Wednesday and Friday** at **St Mary's** there is a **Eucharist** (which is also streamed).



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**.



**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 a monthly service and activities in St Mary's Church with tables and craft for families to share in. The next one will be on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August at 10am** as part of the Parish outdoor celebration – followed by FBL Community Picnic

### Coffee and Chat in the Churchyard



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. There is also a chance for Coffee and Chat at St Faith's on a Tuesday and St Wilfrid's on a Thursday after the service. come to Fellowship on a Wednesday.

### Other events

**Monday Aug 9<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Julian Group meets at St Faith's**  
A time for some stillness and prayer ...

**Wednesday Aug 11<sup>th</sup> After Noon Mass – Interment of Eileen Cornell’s ashes in St Mary’s Garden of Remembrance.**

**Not the May Fayre** As you may be aware we have had to cancel our May Fayre for the last 2 years ...so we are planning to mark our Parish Patronal Festival in August with a miniseries of events.

**Saturday Aug 14<sup>th</sup> from 10am an Indoor Market at St Mary’s**  
If you would like to have a stall (£20) then please contact us to make a booking (limited number) WE will need help with Church stalls and selling refreshments please contact Rosie or Fr Bob for further details .....also have you any items we can sell.

**Sunday Aug 15<sup>th</sup> No services at St Faith’s or St Wilfrid’s 10am Parish Outdoor Service followed by Noon Fratton Community Picnic with FBL and Pompey Pluckers – spaces are limited please contact Fr Bob to book a space**  
Alongside this we will be running **from then till Sept 5<sup>th</sup> our 2<sup>nd</sup> online Raffle ...** with many fabulous prizes including **£100** first prize - **£1** a number. **To reserve numbers please contact Father Bob – payment by cash or BACS.**

**Monday Aug 16<sup>th</sup> Monday Men meet in the evening – contact Revd Marcus for details**

**Weds Aug 25<sup>th</sup> After Noon Mass – Picnic lunch for Fellowship and to celebrate Rita’s 101<sup>st</sup> birthday!** Please bring your own lunch drinks and cake provided!

**Sunday Aug 29<sup>th</sup> No services at St Faith’s or St Wilfrid’s 8am and 10am services at St Mary’s**

**Sunday Sept 5<sup>th</sup> No services at St Faith’s or St Wilfrid’s 8am and 10am services at St Mary’s**

10am – Preacher Ven Jenny Rowley (or Archdeacon); **Licensing of Revd Kate Marlow** to Parish Ministry Team and commissioning of PCC

**Followed by Bar B Q Lunch** – please order a lunch in advance (cost £2)

The PCC also discussed our finances and as with last year we are facing a possible £30k deficit this year – we cannot sustain this level of loss year on year and so are looking at ways to reduce it. You can help by supporting the Indoor Market or by entering the raffle (last year we raised £1k). We have also invited those who are regular givers to contact us for giving envelopes if they need them. Please do let us know asap so we can issue these. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to make a donation or to set up a regular contribution.

Finally let us all continue to hold one another in our prayers and thoughts, and to be aware of others prayers and care for each of us.



*Best wishes*  
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