

Something old, something new ...May 2022



There have been a number of signs of life blossoming as Spring develops towards Summer. There has been our celebrations of **Holy Week and Easter** with a re-establishing of elements of our liturgy (including at St Mary's the first use of the High Altar on Holy Saturday). Thank you to all who contributed to the services and preparation of the Churches – and to our preachers in Holy week and the Archdeacon over the Tridium. There has been the much awaited return of the **May Fayre** – a great event. Many have commented on the atmosphere and the number of people there – St John's Ambulance estimated 15,000! Thank you to the huge Army of volunteers (nearly 90) from across the Parish who worked together to help us raise over £12K! Then this weekend sees the first of our **Summer weddings** – with 2 couples who have been waiting since 2020! – and the joy those services bring.

One of the phrases associated with weddings is '**Something old, something new ...**' and if you want to know the rest and what it means ask any of those who have listened in the past to Deacon Ken's wonderful 'traditions of marriage' talks. As we move through Spring into Summer that is a phrase we can reflect on.

The last 2 years have had a deep impact on all of us and we have to recognise that we are not the same as we were – all of us have changed and our view of ourselves, the world and God may also have been affected. So as we begin to return to some familiar things, we will find in them somethings old – but we will also find somethings that are new, It would be interesting to hear from you what you have valued and learnt about yourself and God over the last few months – and what you have valued about the way we have grown as his people and

how we share our life together. Please do share your thoughts with one of the ministry team.



As Ascension Day approaches on May 25th so it is time for us to review again our response to COVID and how that shapes our worship. We will continue to ensure that the churches are as safe a space as they can be for all to gather together, and within each church we will maintain areas where people can continue to sit at a safe distance from one another and in those areas to use face coverings etc.



However, the Parish Wardens and Ministry Team are suggesting that from Ascension Day **we cease to encourage people to wear a face covering in Church. It will become 'optional'** (unless seated in the seats set at a distance). The ministers administering communion, however, will continue to wear a covering. **Hand sanitiser** will also continue to be available at the door (and will be used by those administering communion). If you have any concerns or views on this then please do let Fr Bob know.

We have decided to continue to **administer Communion** in both kinds with the Priest intincting in the chalice – but will be exploring extending this to other services beyond Sunday morning, We will continue to keep this under review and will reflect when it will be appropriate to restore a full sharing of the Chalice.

We appreciate that for some these moves will not be enough while for other they may continue to be challenging and unsettling. **Please do let the Ministry team know your feelings and thoughts and we will be adapting and developing as we believe is best for the common good. 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.**

The rhythm of Parish life also continues

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** 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.

Fellowship Lunch **Once a fortnight after the Wednesday Noon Mass** you are invited to bring a lunch and share in conversation at St Mary's. Each time we gather there will be a visiting speaker or activity. See the list of dates for details ...

Coffee and Chat



You can gather and catch up with others at **Coffee and Chat in St Mary's each Friday at 11am**. - 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.

Just Ask **Saturdays 10 – 11am at St Mary's** – a chance to come and explore arranging Weddings and Christenings or 'just ask' the clergy anything!

Funerals



Over the last couple of weeks three great characters from our Parish community have died. **Revd Frances'** Funeral was on Friday 13th – she will be remembered by many of us for her own and distinct ministry – and

many have been supported and inspired by her. **Jean Jones** – whose funeral will be at St Mary's on **May 19th at 11am.** – has been a faithful member of St Mary's for many years and was someone who was always interested in others and supportive of them. Lastly, **Betty Hawkins**, has a long association with the Fellowship and St Mary's and although a Home Communicant for a few years always asked for her love to be given to all who remembered her. Her Funeral will be on **May 31st at 11.30am** at St Mary's. We give thanks for all 3 of them and pray they may now rest in peace.

Memorial to all who died over COVID



One of the new things at St Mary's from COVID has been the moving of the reserved Sacrament to the High Altar - as a sign of Christ's presence with us through all we have faced. The Diocese have now approved plans drawn up by our Architect for this to be a permanent feature and to improve the layout of the area around the High Altar. We will also (post Organ Project) be re-ordering the Boniface Chapel into a space for us to support the bereaved and those who come seeking conversations and support. We will later in the year be re-dedicating the East End in memory of those who have died over the last 2 years. If you would like to make a donation to this project in memory of someone then please contact Fr Bob for details.

Organ Project



Another 'old, but new thing' is the completion of the restoration of the organ, The good news is the scaffolding has already been dismantled and we can see the visual transformation of the case and gold pipes. It is hoped we will begin to hear the instrument being played at services from June 5th. We hope you have seen the invitations to the celebrations to mark the restoration focused around July 16th and 17th. There are workshops, jive tea dances, talks on the Boer War, recitals and so many more. Please look up the details and come along and share in marking this great achievement.

Exploring Faith and Confirmation If the last months have made you reflect on your faith and you would like to be part of groups considering this and discussing it or you would like to explore being

confirmed then please contact one of the Ministry Team. **The Confirmation Service with Bishop Jonathan will be at St Mary's on July 24th at 10am.**

EcoChurch



A further new thing has been the appearance of our new Electric Cargo Bike – this will be used by us for moving things between the 3 churches and to help us to reduce our carbon footprint. Alongside this is the news that we have been granted a **Silver Award** as an EcoChurch by A Rocha. (We are the only Silver award in the Diocese, the only Gold Award is on the Isle of Wight). We hope this will encourage all of us to look at how we respect the gifts of creation and consider what we can do together and alone to move us from Silver to Gold!



Another change that is about to happen is the **Revd Sue will be moving from St Faith's**. As you may be aware Revd Sue began a full time job in the Autumn at the FE College – and that along with other calls on her time mean that she is unable to do as much in the Parish. After discussions with the Archdeacon and Father Bod it was agreed that she will remain part of our Parish Ministry Team, but not have any particular responsibilities within it. She will say farewell to St Faith's on May 22nd and move to St Mary's as her main Church from Ascension Day. Revd Sam supported by Revd Kate will take on the responsibility for leading the community at St Faith's and sharing in ministry there with Revd Jenny and Jenny Stemp. As we give thanks for Revd Sue's ministry there let us pray for that community over the coming weeks.

Lastly it is the **season of AGMs** It is the time of year for each Church to have its Annual Meeting and for the Parish Annual Meeting to hear about our life and activity over the last year and to elect PCC members etc.

We hope you will be able to come along and learn about all that is being done. The meetings will be **May 22nd Sunday**

St Faith's after 9am
St Mary's after 10am

St Wilfrid's at 10.15 before the 11am

Then on **Tues 24th 7pm** The **Parish APCM** will be at St Mary's and will include **Fish and Chips. Tickets available at Church.**

Finally on **Thurs 26th 7pm Ascension Day Mass at St Mary's** and commissioning of PCC our Preacher will be Neil Pugmire, Diocesan Communications Officer.

Alongside all of this there are **Other events**

Sat May 21st

9am Prayer Breakfast at St Mary's

Come and enjoy a light breakfast, conversation and a chance to reflect on our lives of prayer. Please let Fr Bob if you hope to attend

Tues May 24th

6pm Social Justice Group at St Mary's

Weds May 25th

Noon Fellowship Lunch at St Mary's

Sat May 28th

**10am Christian Aid Big Breakfast
at St Faith's**

Fri June 3rd to Tuesday June 7th

The Labyrinth at St Wilfrid's

2 – 4pm and 6 – 9pm each day.

An opportunity to reflect on our journey through life with God using art and focusing on the Psalms. If you would like to help in anyway please contact one of the Ministry Team

Sat June 4th

In the Churchyard Portsmouth Film Society will be hosting an **Outdoor Cinema showing 'The Greatest Showman'**

Sunday June 5th

Noon Community Picnic Lunch

in the Churchyard hosted by Fratton Big Local with entertainment,

3pm Service of thanksgiving

for the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen in the Church

Weds June 8th

Noon Fellowship Lunch at St Mary's

Sat June 11th 10am A Coffee Morning at St Faith's

Sunday June 12th 11.30am Young Families meet at St Mary's

**4pm Dickens Fellowship Evensong
at St Mary's Preacher Dean Anthony Cane**

**Mon June 13th 7.30pm Julian Prayer Group
meets at St Faith's**

All of this and everything else we do is only possible with your support and financial generosity and to the hard work of our dedicated team of staff and volunteers – thank you to each and every one of them for all they do.

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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