

The times they are a changing ... June 2022



In the last newsletter we began reflecting on the early signs of Summer. It has been a bit start and stop but there is a sense of the changing of season into Summer with Test Matches, Wimbledon and the Strawberry Tea, Alongside this in a number of ways as a certain Mr Dylan once said – ‘The times they are a changing!’



This Saturday we will be supporting Fr Rajiv as he is ordained a priest and then on **Monday (4th)** we are invited to gather and celebrate with him as **he presides at Mass for the first time. The service is at St Mary's at 7pm** and will be followed by Cake – and a Caribbean meal.



As we celebrate with him, we also prepare to say **farewell to Revd Marcus**. We announced last weekend that his 4 year licence from the Bishop to train here has come to an end and so he has to move to another Parish. The Bishop has invited him to continue training as an **Assistant Curate at Portsdown and**

Purbrook. We will have a chance to say farewell and thank you over a picnic lunch (after the Confirmation service) on **July 24th** ending with a **service at 3pm**. Please hold him and his family in your prayers – as well as Revd Andy Wilson and all at his new Parishes. (If you wish to donate to a farewell gift please do so in a clearly marked envelope or by BACS marked ‘Revd Marcus’.



But these are not the only things that are changing. **St Mary's** DCC met in May and considered a set of proposals from the Ministry Team and Wardens. This reflected on how we best review the use of our building spaces following COVID and the Organ

Project. The paper set all of the thinking within the context of our Parish vision and was agreed by the DCC. Over the coming weeks we will be putting into place the recommendations. We hope by September that you will discover how we have developed spaces that



provide a sense of space and welcome with the stillness and presence of Christ at the heart of it. There will also be developments in how we support and welcome our children and young families. As part of this we will be selling some of the old brown chairs – if you would like to own one then please contact Father Bob for details

If you would like more information on what is being proposed or have your own thoughts and ideas to share then please let one of the Ministry Team or the Wardens know.



Alongside this the times are also changing at **St Wilfrid's**. The plans for the closure of the building for worship at the end of November are developing. There will be opportunities to celebrate and give thanks for the witness and life of that church over the last 114 years, as well as a chance to share memories and prepare

ourselves to move on. We will be doing all we can to support the congregation through this journey and we will be joined by Bishop Jonathan as part of this. Please hold that community in your prayers and also Revds Sam and Kate as they lead people through the coming days.



Lastly, the times are also changing at **St Faith's**! As we prepare for the transition at St Wilfrid's so we can review the main service time at St Faith's on a Sunday. It is being proposed that from September 4th the Sunday service will revert to 9.30am.

Times of change can be exciting, but they can also be unsettling and what will not change is our encouragement to you to talk with us about whatever you wish. Also, the rooting of all that we do in prayer and worship, care for one another and support of the wider community remains at the heart of our common life. So the rhythm of Parish life will continue over the Summer

Private Prayer and Public Worship

You are encouraged to **pause and pray** with each other (wherever you are) at **9am and 6pm** every day – being aware of our shared life of prayer.



Also 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!

We will also continue to monitor and review our practices with regard to COVID. as the cases currently are increasing (and the local vaccination rate is still less than 50%!) **we will not be changing further our current practices over the summer months.**

Hand sanitiser will continue to be available at the door (and will be used by those administering communion).

Communion will be administered in both kinds with the Priest intincting in the chalice –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 since March 2020.**

Organ Project



We are delighted that the work on restoring the Organ is now complete and over the last few weeks we have enjoyed and valued the sound of the restored Organ. We look forward to a range of activities, events and services (see below for some of them) that will celebrate this stage in the Project. There are many we should thank – not least the team from Nicholson's – but particularly we owe a huge **vote of thanks to Matt Dixon** for his commitment and leadership of the project. **Come and enjoy our celebrations!**



Over the coming weeks there are a number of special events we hope you will share in

Sun July 3rd

1.30pm Music in the Churchyard

A chance to enjoy live music in the churchyard with British Legion Victory Brass and Nadina strings

2 – 3.30pm Tower Open for those who wish to enjoy the view and climb 206 stairs

2.30pm Strawberry Tea Tickets are available from the Church : £4 per person.

Mon July 4th 7pm Fr Rajiv presides at Mass for 1st time
– a very special service. It would be good if we could be there to celebrate with him. After the service there will be a Caribbean meal and cake!– which we hope you will also join us for.

Sat July 9th 3.30pm Portsmouth Christians Climate Action Group 3.30 – 5.30pm an informal get-together of the Portsmouth Ecumenical Christian Climate Action Group, with a bring-and-share tea. Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be provided. If you would like to contribute to the food please bring savoury nibbles (vegetarian or vegan please), cakes or fruit, but there is no obligation to do so. **Please let Revd Sam if you wish to go**

Mon July 11th 7.30pm Julian Prayer Group at St Faith's

Weds July 13th 12.30pm Fellowship Lunch

Thurs July 14th 7pm Talk on Boer War
Dr Karl Bell (from the University) will give a Memorial Talk on the Boer War. The organ is closely linked with the Boer War through its memorial pipe organ screen. Join this opportunity to learn about the organ and our community heritage.

Fri July 15th 2 – 4pm Mo Jive Tea Dance an alternative



interpretation of the Victorian Tea Dance, taking inspiration from the Mo'jive dance style. During the Victorian era, dance halls across the country were opened for people to

come in, enjoy tea and small sandwiches, and dance to the latest music trends. Derived from swing, lindy hop, salsa, and more, Mo'jive relies on certain key moves which will be taught during the event, allowing people of all ages and skills to take part together. **Tickets £6 each - please book in advance**

Sat July 16th 4pm Service of Rededication followed by refreshments and Organ Recital



Join us as we celebrate the historic restoration of our pipe organ with a Service of Dedication (including a blessing of the organ by the Bishop of Portsmouth), a short presentation by our organ builders, and an inaugural recital given by

international recitalist, Thomas Trotter.

Sun July 17th 2pm 'Come and Sing' with us at our Festival Choral Evensong, celebrating the completed restoration of our 1889 pipe organ. If you wish to sing with us, please book in advance. Arrive at St Mary's Church at 1:30pm, rehearsals start at 2pm. Robes and any accompanying academic dress may be worn for the service.

4pm Choral Evensong

Mon July 18th 7pm Monday Men at St Mary's

Tues July 19th 7pm PCC meets at St Mary's

Weds July 20th 7pm Zoom Book Club

Marie will be hosting a Book Club on Zoom over the Summer (Wednesdays 20th July; and 17th August) if you would like to join (or would like more information please contact Marie or Revd Sam).

Fri July 22nd 7pm Skittles Night the return of the sporting highlight of the year! An evening at the Maritime Club in Queen Street – skittles and a meal ... please see booking form in Church for details and ordering a ticket (£8 an adult, £5 under 18 – includes the meal)



Sat July 23rd 9am Prayer Breakfast



7.30pm Organ Spectacular Concert Superb music to celebrate the Newly Restored Church Organ from Portsmouth Choral Union – including Messe Solennelle (Solemn Mass) in C# Minor, Opus 16, by Louis Vierne ; Organ Concerto by Poulenc. (Soloist - Daniel Cook organist at Durham Cathedral); Hear my words by Parry and Blessed City by Bairstow. **Tickets available from PCU**

Sun July 24th

**10am Confirmation Service at St Mary's
Picnic Lunch
3pm Farewell Service for Revd Marcus**

Fri August 5th

7pm Organ Recital – Adrian Bawtree

Mon August 8th

7.30pm Julian Prayer Group at St Faith's

Weds August 10th

10am – 4pm Do Something Different Day Crafts, games, lunch, afternoon tea and cake, and a film. Cost: £5 per person to include all refreshments and activities (pay on the day)
To book your place please ring



St Mary's Office on 02392 814444

Sun Aug 14th

10am Outdoor Parish Service at St Mary's Followed by Picnic Lunch, Pompey Pluckers and Mary Rose and Royal George Morris dancers and a **celebration of cycling – ending at 2pm with a blessing of cyclists** and Churchyard 'ride past'



Thank you to all who will help to enable all these things to happen – and to all who continue to financially support us through their donations and regular giving.



Best wishes
Father Bob
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Revd Sam
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