

Dear Friends,

17th July 2020

Evensong July 12th was our first service back in the building since the end of March! It was very good to be there, and despite the weirdness of the regulations there was enough love and familiarity to go round, and a very strong sense that God had got us all through Corona-19 round 1. It didn't happen by magic! Huge thanks go to Ken our warden, to Chris and the Holy Dusters and to the locking up team who spend extra time every evening wiping down the pews to make the building safe to open next morning. Thanks also to Wendy, Laurence and Graeme for the music.

Because of the weight of practical stuff that has to be done every time we hold a service, we are not aiming for more than one service on a Sunday at the moment. Last week we were at our maximum safe number with 39 people. This week we thought we'd try an outdoor communion where numbers are less tight. We will continue with 0800 and 1000 and 1800 online - between St Mary's Amersham and Great Missenden we get over 1,500 people checking so we need to keep being inclusive in that way. This means that our Great Outdoor Communion on July 19th will be at 11.00am and everyone can receive Communion bread or a blessing. Please come along and bring a chair if you can and even a flask of coffee! If we sit in family units duly distanced it should be fine. The sun, so they tell us, will shine!

One of the consequences of lockdown has been that people have thought through all sorts of aspects of their lives and rightly so. Chris Nickless had already decided that he would not stand as warden at the next APCM as it wasn't a role that he found was quite right for him. Since the APCM is now not until Sept 29th he has resigned from now, but thankfully will continue in much of the valuable work he does for us. Guy Priestley has done 3 years as PCC secretary and will also be stepping down in September.

I am praying that there will be people who feel this is the time to give a bit more to the local community and the local church. We would love to hear from you. There is no doubt that being church warden is quite a job, but you will be part of shaping the future in a most interesting era. Lots of the old assumptions about how we do church have been challenged and something new will emerge. If you have a flair for admin then PCC secretary could well be for you. The job faces both towards the PC C and towards the Diocese, and of course it can be done from your home on the computer! Please do pray about this. It could be you!



I will be taking a break at the beginning of August and Elizabeth after that. Hopefully Sundays will continue with one service in church and all three Sunday services on-line. During the week we normally do video reflections on alternate days so the August pattern will probably be: Monday: Morning Prayer, Wednesday: Thought for the Day, Friday : Evening Prayer.

Last chance to support Helen as she rides up Everest. <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/HelenBiggerstaff1> Do get in touch if you'd like a chat, a prayer or help. We will write again soon.

With our love and prayers,

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