

Dear all,

Last week in my Annual Address, I reflected on how the pandemic has interrupted and pressed the 'pause' button on so many of our ministries and activities over the past year. The Church, as we know it, has looked and sounded very different!

As we prepare for the time when we can re-engage with each other, we need to realise that we are moving into a time of change where some ministries will be reshaped, some new ones will emerge, and some will be retiring. One of the contributing factors is that our ability to resource various ministries is changing as people use the present lockdown to reflect on the time they give to various activities. Some will step down (if this is you, thank-you so much for all your support!) whilst others will move into new areas.

Another factor is the role the future Church Kitchen will play in the life of the Church. Those who have helped with the catering at St Mary's over the years know only too well the frustrations and severe limitations one has had to work with. No longer! This project will help us to reshape existing ministries and grow new ones around food! After all, St Mary's is known for 'never knowingly underfed!'

As we continue to reflect and reimagine what it means to be God's Church post Covid19, ask yourself, what part are you going to play in this?

With every blessing, Tim

Church News:

This week's Church News covers **two weeks** as I'm attending an online conference next week, along with trying to catch up on a few days annual leave from 2020! The next news will be available on Friday 26 March.

Weekly Challenges

For Sunday 14 March: A Mothering Sunday Colouring In / Crafty Week! Click here to download the Mother's Day colouring in picture.

For Sunday 21 March: Send us Two Photos this week: a photo of the ingredients you need to prepare a favourite meal of yours, and a photo of your meal.

Please send them to jenny@barrett.cc by each Saturday 12noon.

• Kitchen Project

<u>Click here</u> to learn about the Kitchen Project. A Gift Day to enable this project is being held on 4th April (Easter Sunday). What will your response be?

Annual Address & Roadmap

<u>Click here</u> to read my Annual Address from Sunday 7th March. <u>Click here</u> to view St Mary's Roadmap.

• Easter Virtual Choir

Following on from the successful Christmas Virtual Choir, we are recording the great Easter Hymn 'Thine be the glory' for Easter Sunday. To learn how you can take part, please <u>click this link</u>.

• Lent & Easter 2021

<u>Click here</u> to visit our Lent & Easter Resources webpage where you can find various articles and videos focused on Lent!

Easter Services/Resources for the Diary

Maundy Thursday – a series of 7 short videos by J John reflecting on Jesus' last 7 words, will be available on the Church's website.

Good Friday - a live-streamed Service at 10am

Easter/Holy Saturday – Do read 'That Easter Saturday Experience' article by J John will be available on the Church's website.

Easter Sunday – a live-streamed Service at 10am

• Tuesday 23rd March

At 12noon on Tuesday 23rd March, there will be a minute's silent reflection to mark the first anniversary of the first lockdown in the UK – this, a National Day of Reflection, is an opportunity to reflect on our collective loss due to Covid-19 and to look forward to a brighter future. A Bell will be tolled at 12.01pm ending this time of reflection. Do listen out for it.

• World Mission Update

Click here to read the latest news from the Hursts working with Wycliffe.

• Sunday Services

Sunday 14 March includes Communion – do get ready for this. Sunday 21 March is a Morning Worship Service.

After both services, please join us on Zoom for 'Zoffee and Zea' for a time of catching up with each other at **11:45am**.

Praying for...

- Saturday 13 March AM as Jane G & Tim attend Diocesan Synod via Zoom
- Tim attending an Online Conference 15-17 March with the Churchwardens
- Easter Preparation

Under Aslan's paw,

Tim - Vicar, St Mary's Eaton Socon