



**From Rev Tim Ward, Vicar of Walberton and Rector of Binsted**

Dear Friends and Neighbours

### **Church is Changing Month 11**

In response to this time of difficulty we at St Mary's are taking the following measures in line with our vision, Loving God - Loving Community:

#### **~Services in Church**

Sunday public worship in church is currently suspended. We are hoping to resume at the beginning of March. Attendance at weddings is now limited to 6 people and can only be conducted in exceptional circumstances. Church funerals (maximum for our building will be 20 people at present) are permitted and baptisms are allowed. We will be having a day of Prayer on Ash Wednesday which will also use both the internet and church building including hourly reflections.

We have also been broadcasting a simple service from St Mary's Vicarage each Sunday morning at 9am. We use YouTube. The details of how to access this will be posted on our website home page. Or try searching 'St Mary's Walberton' in YouTube. Service sheets on the website will not have the modern songs' words for copyright reasons. The full words will be available via the weekly ChurchSuite email. If you are not on ChurchSuite, please email [vicar@stmaryswalberton.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmaryswalberton.org.uk) and ask for your email address to be put on the ChurchSuite data base. If you are worshipping at home do look for the sheet on making a spiritual communion without the sacrament. After the service there is coffee and chat until 10.30am via Zoom. To be involved email details are as above.

#### **~ Prayer**

If you would like immediate prayer support please contact our Churchwarden Jean Strickland on 01243 552825.

House of Prayer. Our weekly Parish Prayers continues via Zoom. If you want to take part, please email [houseofprayer@stmaryswalberton.org.uk](mailto:houseofprayer@stmaryswalberton.org.uk) and ask to be added to the ChurchSuite email list. You will then receive a link via email enabling you to join the prayer meeting on Tuesday mornings at 8.30am.

Building our House of Prayer: Do also look at the prayers in the House of Prayer on the website. If you have a prayer of your own that you are finding helpful during these challenging times, then please do share it and support us, as we reach out to the community. email [houseofprayer@stmaryswalberton.org.uk](mailto:houseofprayer@stmaryswalberton.org.uk)

### **~ Financial Help**

For those facing financial hardship we are using The Walberton, Binsted and West Barnham Sick Poor Fund (Reg Charity 243280). The Sick Poor Fund is the parish charity run by the vicar, churchwardens and up to three trustees. It has an income of about £8,000 per year. We currently have about £9,000 in reserve. We can make emergency grants of up to £200 as well as other more regular grants. We usually do so through food vouchers or paying heating bills. A few years ago we changed the qualification for help from being 'sick and poor' to 'sick or poor'. The area of benefit is Walberton, Binsted and West Barnham (up to the railway bridge). People need to live, work or attend primary educational establishments or community organisations or churches in the area of benefit. If you know of anyone who is financially struggling - especially anyone who is under the Statutory Sick Pay threshold for earnings of £118 per week - and has lost their income, then, please, do let me know by phone or letter, preferably asking them first (01243 551488). For this and other local resources Email: [help@stmaryswalberton.org.uk](mailto:help@stmaryswalberton.org.uk)

### **~ Volunteering and Practical help**

We have a list of church members willing to assist the housebound. We would encourage you to help your immediate neighbours without referring to the church. But if there is no one to help you then please contact [help@stmaryswalberton.org.uk](mailto:help@stmaryswalberton.org.uk)

This service is open to all villagers as recipients. Volunteers should expect to fill out a simple self-declaration form and be registered by the Parochial Church Council. Volunteers should expect to buy goods out of their own pockets and then be reimbursed on delivery of the goods with a receipt. A log of all contacts must be kept. Entering houses will not be part of this role as that would require a DBS check.

### **~ Church Office**

The Church Office at Unit G, William Booker Yard, The Street is manned on Tuesdays by Carole and Thursdays by Jill from 9am -11am to the public. Please knock and wait at the door, then take two steps back. The phone 552792 is now redirected to the vicarage at weekends.

I hope all that makes sense. Do contact me at my email or phone below. May God bless you and your families at this difficult time. May we discover resources within our community that we didn't realise we had and be a blessing to each other.

Yours in Christ

Tim Ward

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