

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all keeping well and enjoying the summer. August seems to pass at a more gentle pace than the rest of the year, which is lovely. So far things are holding out well with regards to the lifting of restrictions and we are now getting into a better routine in our Sunday services. Our worship is feeling more familiar with hymn singing allowed, and coming up to the front to receive Communion with wafer indicted with wine by the Priest.

Autumn will see the resumption of several roles and activities such as Coffee Mornings and soup lunches, and Autumn Bible Study groups.

I am also very pleased to be welcoming Joyce Stevens back with the return of a weekly "Pews News". Many people have commented over the past two years that they missed Joyce's "Pews News" and it became apparent that information has been slipping through the cracks. Joyce will produce a weekly sheet which will become the primary source for information sharing. Among other things, it will have the Services and activities for the coming week and the names of people we are praying for. If you have any item or information you would like shared with the Benefice, please send it to Joyce for the Pews News, her details are tonyjoyce2021@gmail.com and her phone number is 01280 702861. Joyce will be producing this to begin for the 1st Sunday of September (5th September). It will go out electronically on email to all folk who are currently on the various Parish mailing lists, and there will be hard copies available in your Parish Churches. Thank you Joyce xxx.

We are looking to restart some of our other ministry activities and I am asking for help with these. Is anyone able to help in any of the following ways please:

1. **BFC:** We are looking for a new Choir Master please to take on the Benefice Festival Chorus. This person will need to be able to direct the Choir, perhaps initially with hymn singing at benefice services and with their existing repertoire, and then progress to new pieces.
 2. **Open The Book:** I am looking for a group of folk to come into school with me to share Bible Stories with the children. I will narrate the stories and the group will "mime" as we go along. There is no acting involved, it is simply storytelling, and is a lot of fun because we will involve the children. I have had a couple of interested people come forward for this and would love some more please. Time commitment is minimal, just 1 practice and 1 story in school per half term.
 3. **Website:** Is there anyone who can run and update the benefice Website please. The time commitment is minimal but it does require some IT skills (which I don't have!).
- If you can help with any of these please contact me. Thank you.

And please remember that benefice wide we are supporting **Polly** with food for the homeless. If you are able to provide easily prepared foods for people that may not have any facilities except perhaps a kettle or microwave at best, please do leave contributions in your Parish Churches. Thank you.

A Service Schedule for September is attached and I look forward to seeing much more of you all in the coming weeks. We have weathered a terrible storm this past 18 months, but with the Lord's help we are coming through. It reminds me of the story in Mark's gospel where Jesus is asleep in the boat when a storm threatened to overwhelm the disciples and they frantically wake Jesus and call on him for help, and he calmed the Storm, and simply said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith? (Mark 4: 35-41) We have all had our faith tested in recent times and I am sure we have all called on Jesus for help; but we can truly say that although we know that the storms of life will come, as long as we have Jesus with us, all will be well in the end.

God bless you.

With love Rev Sue x