



Making Christ Visible

August 2021

Dear Friends,

I hope that you are enjoying this summer and that for some it has allowed time to see family, get away or simply to enjoy some different things. When we restarted services in our church buildings (nearly a year ago) we did so gradually and cautiously. This has developed little by little over my time here (a year at the beginning of September).

Over the summer I have had the chance to speak with Church Wardens and to outline a new pattern of services as we move into the Autumn. This pattern will mean that every parish has at least one 10:30am service each month. The majority of parishes return to the quantity of services that they had pre-covid, but not necessarily on the same weeks or at the same times. This new pattern also expands the menu of different services right across the liturgical spectrum and makes use of the skills of our Clergy, Lay Worship Leaders, and Licensed Lay Minister in Training. Our Lay Pioneers influence will continue to be seen in different ways across our collective ministry. Zoom services will change, with 3 of our 10:30am services live-streamed from our buildings to zoom each month. I remain committed to providing services in as many different forms as possible, within the limits of the resources that we have. I hope that we will continue to provide the best possible experience for those joining from home. This will be a work in progress as we trial different technical set-ups. I suspect that zoom will also be a feature of benefice life when we look at mid-week courses at different times of year. The new pattern will need to be implemented gradually (and will no doubt need tweaking along the way). Do keep an eye out as events including Harvest/Remembrance Day followed by Advent and Christmas will mean that absolute continuity of the new structure won't be fully in place until January.

I hope and pray that contained within this service pattern you will find things that are familiar and those that aren't. Come to that which is familiar, maybe try something new and do feel free to visit other churches in the Benefice. Above and beyond all, let us be reminded that the Church is bigger than Sunday services, is broader than service style and is about everyday people like you and me living out a call to be followers of Jesus in the Benefice and beyond.

Blessings

Lewis