

Latest news from the Parish of Goring by Sea.

22nd. July 2021

Parish Office. Email: office@goringbyseaparish.org

St Mary's Church Open for Prayer

St Mary's Church is open daily for prayer. Open Monday to Saturday (inclusive) 10.00am to 4.00pm and Sunday 12.00noon to 4.00pm.

Full details of all services and parish events can be found in Newsletter **Extra**. Contact the Parish Office if you do not have the July copy.

Services in church this week

St Mary's	St Mary's	St Laurence's
Sunday 25.7.'21 8.00am Said Eucharist (BCP)	Sunday 25.7.'21 10.00am Said Eucharist (CW)	Thursday 29.7.'21 10.00am Said Eucharist (CW)

Advance notice: The All Age Worship on 1st August 2021 will take place in the Molson Garden. A service of thanksgiving and renewal, the theme will be 'For the beauty of the earth'.

Arrangements for worship from the 19th July

We have considered the guidance from the Government and that issued by the Church of England's Recovery Group on Monday 19th July. We agree that we should proceed with caution and care in order for our churches and halls to be as safe as possible in this time of pandemic, and particularly to protect the most vulnerable in our community. You may wish to read the Church of England guidance in detail.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance#na>

Bishop Sarah, who chairs the Church of England's Recovery Group, said: "The relaxation of restrictions on Monday is only possible because of the vaccination programme which has reduced the percentage of those with Covid who become seriously ill or die.

"We are indebted to all who have developed and administered the vaccines and we encourage anyone who has not yet done so to take advantage of the protection they offer.

"Many will welcome the possibilities now before us, not least increased numbers at life events and a long awaited return of congregational and amateur choir singing.

"However, this is a difficult point in the course of the pandemic. Despite vaccination rates, cases are up, hospital admissions are up and long covid remains an ongoing concern. Therefore our approach needs to be cautious and careful.

"Taking personal responsibility means responsibility for our neighbour, not just for ourselves, and taking precautions to protect those more vulnerable than we consider ourselves to be. Local church leaders know their communities and their own circumstances, and we will support them making local decisions to keep themselves and their community safe. We would ask everyone to support those making local decisions and respect risk assessments, which are in place to protect everyone as we enter the next phase."

What does this mean in practice in our Parish?

From this Sunday we ask that you

- continue to wear face masks in church
- when visiting church and attending services, wash or sanitise your hands on entry and leaving the church, and after receiving communion
- register your attendance in the churches by using the NHS QR code or registering with the sides people when you arrive; they will have a list of regular attendees so this should be fairly simple
- leave church promptly making use of the churchyard and gardens to socialise.

You will no longer need to register in advance for most services.

We are

- retaining some elements of social distancing as follows:
 - keeping alternate pews closed, this will be slightly different from the present arrangement, but closed pews will be clearly marked.
 - asking that you keep a sensible distance from anyone who is not a member of your family or friendship bubble. e.g. 1 metre. We will mark three places on each pew to assist this.
 - pews at both churches will be identified for people who wish to remain 2 metres distance, in the main this will be at the rear of the church; they will be clearly marked
- continuing the present arrangement for the taking of communion; that is administered in one kind at the chancel step with communicants following a one-way system.
- reintroducing hymn books at appropriate services; these will not be used again until at least the following week (over 72 hours) allowing time for any virus to die before the next use. However if anyone is still concerned they will be able to loan their own copy of the hymn books
- arranging increased ventilation in our churches where possible
- reintroducing daily cleaning and sanitising of frequently used and touch areas at St Mary's church.

We will keep these arrangements under review, and if successful in enabling us to continue to worship with care and caution

Congregational singing will be reintroduced in church from the 8th. August

Congratulations to David Skilton, who celebrated 100 years last Saturday 17th 2021



We are delighted to give our congratulations to David on reaching 100 years.

David has been a regular worshiper at St Mary's Church for a number of years. Before the pandemic he regularly attended the Thursday morning Eucharist and the following coffee morning. He is a great cook and regularly baked a cake for the coffee morning. Hopefully it will not be too long before we can again enjoy his baking and company at church again.

Prayer Circles

There are people who will pray regularly about any concerns you, your family or friends may have, and will keep all requests confidential among themselves. To request such prayers please telephone either Sylvia on 01903 529743 or Barbara on 01903 240613

Pastoral Visits.

Please let Fr. Keith or Fr. Neill or the Wardens know if you have a personal or pastoral concern or may know of someone in need.

May God bless you and give you peace,

Fr. Keith, Fr. Neill, Gill and Janice



Donations You can donate direct to the Parish of Goring by Sea and our various fund-raising events by using this QR code.