

**St Michael & All Angels Parish Church, Awliscombe**  
**From the Churchwardens**  
(amended 1<sup>st</sup> September)

Dear All

**Lay led services**

As we can now resume services, subject to Covid-related precautions, we plan to hold our first service in St Michael's on Sunday 6th September and monthly thereafter. Key points as follows:

- It will be a lay-led service at the usual time of 9.30, and we will follow our normal New Life order of service, with some amendments - see below.
- We are looking for volunteers to lead it, so if any of the usual teams are able to do so please let Roger or me know.
- We are not allowed to sing at the moment and there can be no homily. However, we can play some music through our speaker (so long as it doesn't encourage singing!) and we can have an additional reading. We will also circulate by email the reflections on the set reading that Sue prepares for that week.
- We will be asking people to use the provided hand sanitiser on entry and exit, to stay in separate household groups and to wear masks/face coverings.
- All of the above will mean the service is fairly short - probably just 20-25 minutes - but we hope that it will be a welcome first step towards a full schedule of services at some point in the future.

**Harvest**

Sadly, as things stand there is no realistic way of holding the harvest supper this year. We will aim to have a harvest theme for our lay-led service in October.

**APCM**

We need to hold this year's Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting (APCM), incorporating the election of churchwardens and rotating PCC members, before the end of October. To make attendance as easy as possible we are looking at combining it with the October lay-led service, perhaps on 4 October.

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### **Finance**

With no weekly collections, no fete and the prospect of no harvest supper it will surprise no one that our finances are not in good shape, while many of our expenses - insurance, building maintenance and, of course our Common Fund contribution - continue. These are hard times for many of us, but if anyone is in a position to increase their monthly giving or to make a one-off donation (all details below), please give that some consideration.

If anyone has ideas for alternative fund-raising activities that are workable in the current circumstances, please get in touch.

I'm happy to say that we are in with a chance of getting some funding from the Covid-19 Emergency Heritage At Risk fund towards the cost of doing the work required to sort out the Lady Chapel roof. We're just over the first hurdle and now have to make a full application, so - fingers crossed!

I think that's enough for now - well done if you've got this far!

Best wishes from Roger and myself

Nick

### **Giving details:**

- Cheques payable to "Awliscombe PCC" can be sent to me or to Trudie at Vine Cottage, Southleigh, EX24 6JE;
- Bank account details are: Awliscombe PCC, Sort Code 30 94 36, a/c no. 40520068
- Please consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme if you are not already on it: apart from the convenience of a direct debit, which can be set to increase with inflation, this means that if you are a tax payer, Gift Aid is automatically reclaimed, which saves a huge amount of work for the Treasurer. Contact either of us or Trudie for a pack.