



*Churches of St Michael's Ramsey w Little Oakley, All Saints Dovercourt w Parkeston
and St Nicholas Harwich.*

**Rector's Letter
to all members of the Electoral Roll of the Parish of the Harwich Peninsula**

Dear friends

I hope you are enjoying this summertime and taking the opportunity to spend time with family and friends, perhaps enjoying a short break or planning a longer holiday, now that Covid restrictions are being lifted. Of course there are still many of us who are continuing to take the utmost care either for our own health, or because of the frailty of our loved ones and so we continue to pray for each other, mindful of the particular burdens we still carry.

Following the lifting of restrictions, there have been a few changes in our arrangements for Sunday worship that you may not yet be aware of and I have listed them below:

Face coverings: these are to be worn when entering, moving around and leaving the church but can be removed when seated.

Seating: there is now no need to book to attend a service, we will be using all the pews rather than every other row and you may sit with whoever you wish, provided others are comfortable with this. For those who still wish to sit at a distance, each church will provide an area of seating where all the seating restrictions will be kept in place.

Singing: there will be one sung hymn at the end of the morning service, with face coverings on.

Communion: we will continue to receive in one kind only, while remaining in our seats, as at the moment.

All of the above will be reviewed at the beginning of September.

There will be a twice monthly midweek service of Holy Communion on Wednesdays at 9.30am at All Saints Church, where social distancing will be maintained and face coverings will be worn throughout the service. All are welcome to attend, and if you are thinking about returning to church but are anxious about the changes, then I hope this might give you the opportunity to come at a time when fewer people attend. This will begin on Wednesday 11th August.

Our Sunday worship continues as at present, with a 9.30am service either at St Nicholas or St Michael's Churches and a 10.30 service at All Saints' every week. All are welcome, it would be lovely to see you especially if you haven't attended church for some time.

On Sunday 15th August at 10.30am at All Saints' Church we will be having a Parish service, where we all come together to celebrate as a church family. There will be no 9am service that day. During August our 'Garden Groups' will be running and it's been a great encouragement that we have 32 people who will be attending the groups over the next few weeks, joining together in prayer, discussion and reflection, listening for where God might be leading us now and in the future

and simply re-establishing our connection and friendship with each other. I know so many of you have mourned the loss of that human connection, especially within the church family and I hope this will help.

For myself, I am now working a phased return to work which at the moment is 12 hours a week, to include one service, every other Sunday. I have now completed active treatment and have started on treatment to prevent a recurrence of the cancer. I have to say that everyday I feel better and stronger and continue to be hopeful for the future. Thank you for your prayers and support for me and John over this time.

At a recent PCC meeting, it was unanimously agreed to officially welcome Revd Claire Scargill as a member of the Ministry Team and a special service of her licensing will take place in October, at a time and date yet to be agreed with the Bishop's office. I am delighted that Claire will be joining us on an official basis, please pray for her and her ministry.

We have also now been given the green light for the appointment of a Pioneer Team Vicar and work is underway to get the appointment process moving. We give thanks to God for his continued provision and for all that he has planned for us here in the future.

As usual, further information is available on our weekly newsletter.

With my prayers and very best wishes to you and your families

Margaret

**Revd Canon Margaret Shaw
Team Rector.**