

## **Team Rector Report on Mission and Ministry**

### **Advent and Christmas**

The end of the second lockdown means that churches are now open for public worship with the same sort of restrictions we have been used to.

We are not (yet) allowed to sing as a congregation. Covid Risk Assessments are needed.

We hope to have an online Carol Service – and there may be a village Christmas Celebration at the Cricket Club on Dec 20<sup>th</sup>.

We hope to have services on Christmas Eve at St Anne's and on Christmas Day at St James'.

Advent prayers and reflections have been delivered to those who are more isolated and households have been encouraged to make or get an Advent wreath and to use the prayers which have been put online. There is also an Advent Course, 'An Advent Symphony' on the website

### **Regular Worship**

St James continues to have a service on a fortnightly basis.

Because Revd Jan Ainsworth retires at the end of January and cover will be needed at Bradshaw, I propose that this pattern continues for now.

Online services will continue weekly; we expect restrictions to remain in place until after Easter at the earliest.

We will continue to respond to the national and diocesan requirements and aim to make our church buildings safe and welcoming to all.

### **Communication and Fellowship**

When we are unable to gather together, the website and social media are a major resource for many but not for all. We continue to do what we can as a Team, and share what we can with the Team.

The Facebook Page now has over 400 likes and nearly 450 followers. The Team YouTube page has also been increasing in numbers of followers and watchers. The websites for parish and Team are also getting more and more interest. This is all very good news, and we hope it complements what we can do for real and what we can do in practice.

The children are connected by a family Whatsapp group where ideas and joys are shared – the Stir-Up and Advent Wreaths have both been really good shared experiences.

PCC members are asked to encourage others to use what is online and promote it.

We have delivered a 'Paper Website' newsletter to those we know who don't do internet as we want them to feel included and we will continue to deliver resources where needed.

This is continuing good news, for us as a parish and for the Team and we need to continue to learn what we can do and do better. Some will feel anxious that this does not feel real and proper. It does not replace our coming together but it does provide connections when we can't and it will continue to be a window into church for those who don't (yet) come.

We continue to look at how we can make the Broadhead Room a place of welcome, warm but also informative and where the mission and purpose of the church is evident.

### **Future Planning**

We will know more about the diocesan plans, and possibly have a clearer idea about a real time-line after a meeting with the deanery clergy and Bishop Mark later in the week. At the moment we know this is a major challenge and will mean significant changes, but we don't yet know a time-scale.

There will be a reduction in stipendiary clergy and this will affect the Team, but again we don't know how quickly or how much. The Diocese cannot continue to have deficits of over £1 million a year.

It does mean that we are uncertain about our future capacity; it certainly means we need to encourage new and younger people to come forward and help in all areas. Developing lay ministries and encouraging lay people to be more involved in worship, mission and the running of the churches. will need to continue to be one of our priorities.

We will probably need to give a PCC meeting to this one area – future plans and priorities – but we will be better able to plan when we know more about the diocese's plans.