



St Mary's Church, Thorpe
Church Approach, Egham, Surrey, TW20 8TQ
Charity: 1176929. Vicar: The Revd. Damian Stewart Harrison-Miles, BTh
www.stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk



15 September 2020

VESTRY & ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
SUNDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2020, 11:30am (Postponed from Sunday 26th April)
(Via Zoom – with some places available in Church for those without internet access/Zoom).

Dear friends in Christ,

I am writing to formally request your attendance at our Vestry Meeting, at which we need to elect a new Churchwarden and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), at which we need to elect our Parochial Church Council (PCC). The meeting follows the 10am Sung Eucharist and will be held via ZOOM this year: Meeting ID: 854 3178 2435, Passcode: 807993.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85431782435?pwd=dGhLQkE4dnphS2RQSlrNnB6MzdPd09>

We have some spaces available in Church primarily for those without internet/Zoom access. If you can't attend, please be so kind as to let me know by phone (leave a message on 01932 565986) or by email: stmaryschurchthorpe@outlook.com. If you have not yet received a copy of the Church Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019 (sent via the mailer or by post to those we know are without internet) please let me know and do **have the report booklet with you** on Sunday for the meeting.

On page 35 is a reflection entitled: Post 20:20, *what does our Church Development Plan look like?* We need your help to set our vision post 2020 and we are asking you to reflect upon three questions:

1. Are there any suggestions or comments you would like to make as our PCC begins to plan our Church Development Plan post 2020?
2. What should our priorities be beyond 2020?
3. What skills, talents, time, or gifts could **YOU** offer/bring to the life of this Parish and the mission of our Church in Thorpe?
4. Considering the Covid-19 pandemic, should we change our priorities and if so how and why?

Please return the response slip at the meeting (or email your response as above). If there is any other business you would like to raise at the meeting, please contact our PCC Secretary, Allison Kelly: allison@rrls.co.uk (Or write via the Vicarage/phone).

Our report on 2019 is another incredibly positive reflection upon a year of life together at St Mary's Church and I believe God has continued to bless us. This week, with the new *rule of six* (which doesn't impact numbers for worship) I have been reflecting upon Saint Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, and in particular chapter 5, verse 17: "*if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!*" (NRSV) I think these words offer us hope, for at times of great challenge we can choose to dwell upon the struggles and our fears, and that is quite normal for those anxieties are real. But as Paul reminded the Corinthians nearly 2000 years ago, we can also choose to view such times of change as an opportunity, because in Jesus everything is new, changed, transformed by love. We have seen that love in action in our online worship and care of many in Thorpe. What a brilliant team of people we have here which has been demonstrated this past six months in the hard work, commitment and outpouring of love by so many for the common good.

We will say some special thanks on Sunday morning and I very much look forward to meeting virtually (or in person) with you.

With prayers as always,

Father Damian Harrison-Miles.

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