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The Vicarage
8 Cofton Church Lane
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Thursday 1st April 2021

Dear Everyone,

At Easter we celebrate the great events of Christ's death and resurrection which are at the heart of our faith with services in both churches and online (see website for full details). Apart from 8am at St Michael's there are plenty of spaces: people seem to have thought they would leave them for others. So if you'd like to attend St Andrew's on **Good Friday** or **Easter Sunday** you are welcome (leave a message at the parish office so we know numbers). If you would be happy to read a Bible reading at one of the services please let me know. Of course everyone is welcome to the Easter stations at St Michael's and Easter garden trail in the community. I will share Communion at the Vicarage in the Zoom Easter Sunday service, so please have bread and wine (or similar) ready at home to join at the same time.

It is just a year since I sent the first Newsletter to the church community, informing you of the closure of the church buildings, giving information about the first tentative on-line services, and asking you to pray for those working on the front-line of what was then a largely unknown and unpredictable illness. Much has changed since then, and for most of us the fear of a year ago has given way to cautious optimism (though for many of our brothers and sisters around the world the situation remains grave). This will be the **final newsletter** as after Easter we revert to a weekly leaflet. So in future, if you have items which you would like to include please send them to Nicola in the Parish Office on office@chandbgparish.org.uk or 0121 447 7097.

My **retirement** is getting closer. I finish at the end of April, and we will move to our new home in Grantham in mid-May. So final services will be on Zoom at 9.30am on Sunday 25 April, followed by Evensong at St Andrew's at 6.00pm. There will be opportunity in the morning service for anyone to speak about how your faith has grown over the last 25 years or so, and to give thanks not for me but for what God has been doing among us. So think and pray about whether you would like to share something.

Live services continue in April, with Communion at 8am on Sunday 11th and 11am on 18th, then Evensong at 6pm on 25th, all in St Andrew's. No booking needed for these. From then on Zoom services continue until at least June 21. There will be Communion on the first Sunday of each month and All-Age Worship on third Sundays, both in St Andrew's at 11.00am. Booking will be necessary for All-Age Worship.

The **Bike Project** collects and fixes up bikes to donate to refugees to get around safely and cheaply. Most asylum seekers cannot work and live on £5.75 per day. If you have a surplus bike in any condition please drop it off between 10am and 2pm on Saturday 8 May at Croft House, Aqueduct Lane, Alvechurch, B48 7BP (first on the right from Bittell Road end). If possible register your donation in advance on the Bike

Project website <https://thebikeproject.co.uk/pages/donate-bike>. More details from Caroline Bellingham on 07787 528853.

A few other notices:

- **Congratulations** to Claire & Michael Matthews on the birth of Charlotte on Monday.
- Please **pray** for Lyn Everard, Jack Daniels, Graham Wright and all who are unwell.
- Remember the church **APCM**, when new Wardens and PCC members are elected, is at 7.30pm on Tuesday April 13. Unfortunately 'live' meetings are still prohibited, so it will be on Zoom only: ID 844 6697 9234, passcode APCM2021. To join by phone call 0203 481 5237 and use the same ID but passcode 82226614.
- As a **farewell gift** we'd really appreciate it if everyone could do an A4 sized sheet with photos, drawings, reminiscences, poems, or anything else to remind us of you and the Christian family here. Please pass them to Nicola in the Parish Office in the coming weeks and she will put them together in a ring file as a precious reminder of our time in Cofton Hackett and Barnt Green. Thank you.
- We have established **Action Groups** to oversee worship and pastoral care until a new vicar arrives. Both groups have met once and will meet again in April. We'd welcome new members to contribute to these important areas, and would especially like some younger adults and more men! Call me on 445 1269 if you are interested.
- Could you do with someone reliable and friendly to help with **cleaning** or shopping? Bridget Edger's cleaner Anne needs extra work. Details from Bridget on 445 1198.
- We need someone to dig the plots for a couple of **burials** of ashes in St Michael's church yard shortly (payment is available). Call Rob on 445 1269 if you can help.

Log-in details for forthcoming Zoom services and events are as follows:

Weekly **Prayer Meeting** Sat 9.00am: meeting ID: 824 7307 6926, password letuspray.

9.30am **Sunday Worship** for all ages: meeting ID 295 293 9790 password standrews.

To join by phone call 0203 481 5237. When asked enter meeting ID 295 293 9790. If asked for participant ID press #. Password is 894070. You'll then hear the service.

Thursday Morning Fellowship: meeting ID 815 6897 6189, password coffeebean.

Finally, a reminder of our prayer for the recruitment of a new vicar:

*Loving God, we thank you for the church in Cofton Hackett and Barnt Green,
and for calling each of us to be a part of the Body of Christ in this place.*

*We are grateful for all that you have done amongst us in the past,
and look forward to the new things you will do in future.*

Help us all to play our part in the ministry, service, and outreach of your church.

Guide the PCC as they prepare to recruit a new vicar. And, in your time and in your way, bring to us the woman or man whom you are calling to serve as vicar here.

We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, the Servant King. Amen.

Yours in Christ.

Rob

Rev Canon R S Fieldson