

## **An update on the somewhat curtailed life of the fellowship of St Sampson's Church**

Hello again!

### **An Invitation to the St Sampson's Day Picnic – 19 July**

We may not yet be able to meet in any numbers within our church building, or share our usual St Sampson's Day BBQ, **BUT** there is nothing to stop the fellowship that is St Sampson's Church enjoying a socially-distanced picnic together in the south-side churchyard to celebrate our Patron Saint's Day! Weather permitting, please bring all you need to enjoy a picnic there – food, drinks, crockery, cutlery, drinking vessels, rugs, seating if required – between 12 noon and 2pm. There will be a short time of worship during our gathering. It will be lovely to see everyone together again, albeit separated physically according to current guidelines and the vagaries of the British weather!!

Assuming the weather is kind to us, the church will be open for supervised private prayer that morning from 10 – 11.30, as the bell ringers will be action from then. Should we be rained off, the church will be open from 10am – 2pm as usual, for prayer.

### **Benefice Outdoor Worship at Waterhay Old Chancel 26 July**

Everyone in Upper Thames is welcome at Waterhay Old Chancel at 10.30 am. The churchyard (which is an SSSI) will be mown but please bring your own chair or rug to sit on (socially distanced). Our annual Waterhay service is always a lovely occasion and although Government restrictions mean it won't be quite as normal, it will be a wonderful time for Upper Thames to know the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and to celebrate God's creation. Do join us - and if wet, it will still take place under umbrellas!

### **Your views, please....**

Please get in touch with Adina or Katy **by text or email** (contact details below) to let them know your views about the possible re-introduction of worship in St Sampson's on a Sunday morning at 10am, bearing in mind that we cannot hold communion services in their normal format and that private prayer on a Sunday will then no longer be able to take place. We will also be asking for volunteers to form a regular, weekly cleaning team to meet current requirements, so that we may open the nave of the church for regular services.

Text or email your views to:

- **Adina** - 07592 916966 - janda.grace447@outlook.com
- **Katy** - 07771 557334 - kathy@bell.waitrose.com

It has already been agreed that there will be no indoor services across the Benefice in July. Sadly, Government guidelines state it is our responsibility to remind those over 70 that they are advised not to attend church services at this time ... but ultimately this is a personal decision.

### **Update on PCC Meeting**

Following our recent PCC meeting, the Minutes of which are accessible on our website and a copy displayed in the church porch, our Treasurer has asked that we thank

everyone for their donations. If anyone has Giving Envelopes that they wish to pass on to support the church, please feel free to put them through Adina's front door or Shirley or Katy's letterboxes at 21 and 83 High Street, respectively. Also, the PCC has reluctantly agreed to write to the Diocese to inform them that we are no longer able to meet our Parish Share commitment on a regular basis for the foreseeable future.

### **St Sampson's Roof Appeal**

*Good news!* We have obtained enough funding to start the south transept roof. Tender documents have been distributed; responses to be received by 17 July. Hopefully, work will commence in the autumn.

### **Finding a New Vicar**

After two meetings of the Benefice-wide Transition Team, we have a draft Benefice Profile which is currently being edited. The intention is to circulate it in August for the appropriate Diocesan approval, with the intention of advertising the vacancy by the Diocese in September, if we are allowed to do so.

May God bless each one of us and those we love during these continuing, strange times.

***Katy Bell***

On behalf of St Sampson's PCC