



WREXHAM MISSION AREA ARDAL GENHADAETH WRECSAM

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, RHOSNESNI

From the Revd Sarah Errington
Priest-in-Charge
Telephone: 01978 266018
e-mail: vicarstjohnswxm@gmail.com

The Vicarage
160 Borrass Road
WREXHAM
LL13 9ER

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To all members of St John's

Hallo Everyone!

The good news is that we're working towards opening the Church for one service each Sunday, starting on **Sunday 21 March**. So I'm writing to ensure that everyone is aware of our plans, and of the precautions we need to take to keep everyone safe.

As was the case in the autumn, we will hold a service in church **at 2.30 pm** each Sunday, with the aim that it will be accessible to as many people as possible. The 'normal' pattern will be that on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, we will celebrate Holy Communion, while the services on the first and third Sundays will be non-Eucharistic. That pattern will be disrupted over Easter, as we will of course celebrate Communion on Easter Day.

Please remember that Wales is currently under Level 4 COVID restrictions. Those restrictions may be eased slightly at the next Welsh Government review on Friday, but I think we can expect that some level of restrictions will be in place for some months to come. At the same time, more people are receiving a vaccine each week, and I therefore expect that more of you will feel able to join us in Church than did before Christmas. So we do need to be extremely vigilant, and ensure that we all keep to the current guidelines, before, during and after Church services. In order to help us to comply, one measure I will insist on is that we have two people acting as stewards at every service. **On any Sunday that we do not have two people available for this duty, there will be no service.** My husband, Steve, is happy to act in this capacity most weeks. If you are able to join him, or want to know more, please get in touch with me.

When you come to Church, everyone over the age of 11 will be expected to wear a face covering, unless you have an exemption. We will be keeping records of attendance for the purposes of Test, Trace and Protect, so please be prepared to give your details and to sanitise your hands on the way into Church. A steward will indicate where you are to sit, to ensure that households remain 2m apart from each other; please remain in your seat until the end of the service, unless you need to use the toilet, or in order to receive Communion. As you move around the building, please observe the one-way system. At the end of the service, when a Steward indicates that it is time for you to move, please leave the Church building promptly. This is the most difficult restriction to keep, because we naturally want to catch up with other members of our Church family, but please remember that we are under a moral obligation to keep each other safe, as well as a legal obligation to keep to government restrictions.

The number of people we can accommodate in Church under these restrictions is quite limited. Before Christmas, we had plenty of space for everyone who came, but in the hope that more people will feel confident to join us now, please will you contact me if you're planning to come to the service on Sunday 21 March? We may find that we cannot accommodate everyone who wants to come, in which case, priority will be given to those who have not been able to join us since before the first lockdown last year. If we find that it's necessary, arrangements will be made to 'book in' each week until distancing regulations are lifted.

The toilets in Church are out of use at present, until the work we have been planning has taken place. (There has been some progress with the tendering process recently, so we are hopeful that the work will commence before too much longer). One of the Stewards at each service will have the key to the Hall available, should you need to use the toilet while you're at Church.

Please note that we will be recording the service at St John's each week, and posting the recording online for the benefit of those from both St John's and St James' who are not able to attend a service in person. Please bear this in mind. Most members of the congregation will not be within camera-shot, but let me know if you have particular circumstances which mean that you must not appear on the broadcast.

If you should develop COVID-like symptoms following a visit to Church, please let me know as soon as possible. If you receive a positive COVID test, please make sure you inform me.

I know that this letter sounds quite officious, and I apologise for that. Please don't let that put you off coming back to Church services. We're all longing for the day when we can meet together without restrictions, but this is the best we can do for now.

I'll look forward to seeing you soon!

With love in Christ

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.