



# WREXHAM MISSION AREA ARDAL GENHADAETH WRECSAM

## ST JOHN'S CHURCH, RHOSNESNI

From the Revd Sarah Errington  
Priest-in-Charge  
Telephone: 01978 266018  
e-mail: [saraherrington@cinw.org.uk](mailto:saraherrington@cinw.org.uk)

The Vicarage  
160 Borrass Road  
WREXHAM  
LL13 9ER

16 September 2021

To all members of St John's

Hallo Everyone!

There are a number of pieces of news and information included in this letter, which I hope will be useful and/or of interest to you. It is quite long, so please bear with me, and try to read it all, even if not all in one go!

### Sunday Services

It has been a difficult year since last September, when we opened the Church building for worship after the first lockdown. We closed the building again, on the advice of the Bishop, from January until mid-March. The work on the toilets did not begin until after Easter, and is still ongoing as I write. For all these reasons, we have not yet changed what was originally intended to be a temporary arrangement of holding one service each Sunday, at 2.30 pm.

This is not a convenient time for most people, and when the Church Council met recently, we felt that the time had come to move away from this time slot. After a long discussion, we decided that from **Sunday 3 October**, we will meet instead at **4.00 pm**. Sadly, at the moment, we do not have the capacity to return to our pre-pandemic practice of holding two services each Sunday, and the Council felt that 4.00 pm would be the preferable option, because it allows myself and Patrick to stay at St John's after the service to chat, rather than rushing off to St James', as we would have to do after a service held at 9.30 am.

We have been very dependent on using the projector and screen over the last year, which has enabled those watching the service online to participate in the liturgy and songs. Over the coming months, we will be looking to reintroduce service sheets and hymn books for some of our services, and finding different ways to be inclusive of our online congregation. We will continue with the pattern of celebrating Communion on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, and holding a non-Eucharistic service on the first and third Sundays. We will seek to make the Communion services feel more traditional, including hymns rather than modern songs, and singing some elements of the liturgy. The non-Eucharistic services will be less liturgical and more interactive, with modern songs. We will seek to engage the younger members of our congregation, providing activities on tables at the back during Communion services, and some informal elements during the non-Eucharistic services. Our services will continue to be recorded and uploaded to Youtube for those who 'join' us from home.

### The Revd Patrick Williams and Steve Barnett

I hope you are aware that Patrick is currently serving his curacy with me, working in both St James' and St John's. Patrick was ordained Deacon on Saturday 3 July, and will work with us until the around the end of 2022. Steve Barnett is well known to us, and was licensed by Bishop Gregory as an Evangelist last Saturday, 11 September. Please keep both Patrick and Steve in your prayers in their early months of ministry amongst us.

St John's Church, Rhosnesni, Herbert Jennings Avenue, Wrexham LL12 7YF

01978 266018

[www.stjohns.wrexhamparish.org.uk](http://www.stjohns.wrexhamparish.org.uk)

[saraherrington@cinw.org.uk](mailto:saraherrington@cinw.org.uk)

Eglwysy Anglicanaidd Wrecsam: Escobaeth Llanelwly, Eglwys yng Nghymru

Wrexham Anglican Churches: Diocese of St Asaph, Church in Wales

### **Harvest Thanksgiving**

Please note that on **Sunday 3 October**, we will be celebrating Harvest, and using the opportunity to support Wrexham Foodbank. Please see the separate flier for details of the items which are currently most needed. You can always make a financial donation instead, allowing the Foodbank to purchase what they need when they need it. If donating money through church, please place it in an envelope marked 'Foodbank', and leave it on the offering plate. If you would like to donate to the Foodbank directly, you can find details of how to do that here: <https://wrexham.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

### **Ways to support St John's**

You may or may not be aware that the congregation of St John's has shrunk quite drastically since the start of the pandemic. People have died, moved away, suffered serious deterioration of their health, or simply left the Church. Gerry Becker, who had taken on the role of Church Warden, has now resigned and left us. This is part of the reason why we cannot sustain two Sunday services at the moment. So I am asking for help! On a practical level, things like keeping the brass polished, laundering Communion linen, doing the flowers, looking after the beds and planters outside the church, sweeping the outside paths – all these are jobs for which no-one is currently taking responsibility. If you could help, please let me know.

Most of all, **we need your prayers!** Specifically, I am asking each of you to think of at least one person whom you would like to see come to faith, and pray that they will do so, and that they will join St John's. I have written a prayer to help you do that; if you have been in Church recently, you should already have a copy. If you have not been in Church recently, and you have received this letter on paper, there is a prayer card with it. If you have received this letter as an email attachment, there is a separate attachment with the prayer. Please commit to praying each day as part of your daily prayers.

We will also be holding prayer meetings. The first will take place on **Tuesday 28 September**, at **7.30 pm**. Please contact me for details of where we will be meeting. If you are able to be there, I hope that you will make it a priority.

### **Help for Afghan refugees**

I believe that 10 Afghan families are to be relocated to Wrexham. These are people who have fled Afghanistan with next to nothing. The local Red Cross is working to gather clothing, household goods, cooking utensils and home comforts for these families, and is happy to receive donations on Mondays, 11.30 am – 12 noon, at Capel y Groes. Alternatively, contact Elinot on 07767 881175 if you would like to donate but cannot get to Capel y Groes at that time. (You may have seen a later time slot publicised elsewhere, but we have now been told that donations are received at this earlier time).

### **Blessings of Same Sex Marriages**

You may be aware that the Governing Body of the Church in Wales met last week, and agreed to authorise a form of blessing for same sex couples, to be used in church. The Bill was passed by at least a two-thirds majority in each 'house' (bishops, clergy and laity). While I do believe that we need to repent of the church's history of demonising and persecuting gay and lesbian people, I remain convinced that marriage as defined by Scripture is a relationship between one man and one woman for life. So I will take advantage of the permission given in this measure for individual clergy not to lead such services. Whatever your own view, if you are at all troubled by this development, please do feel free to speak to me if you feel that would help.

### **And finally . . .**

As well as the flier about donations to the Foodbank, and the prayer card I have already mentioned, this letter comes with a (link to an online) copy of the recent edition of the Diocesan magazine, *Teulu Asaph*, and of Bishop Gregory's Pastoral letter for September.

With my best wishes and love in Christ

