

25th June 2021

Dear Church Family,

I wanted to write to update you on a few things that are in the planning as we continue to rebuild post-Covid.

Vision Planning

I am due to meet with Revd Sarah Baker, who has agreed to facilitate our Vision Planning session. With the delay in lifting restrictions, we won't be able to meet in July, but are aiming to reschedule for September when we can all meet together under one roof. This session will help us to develop a clear sense of direction for our ministry and mission for our parish, and enable us to focus on those areas. Further information about this will follow.

Reorganisation

There have been many meetings about the reorganisation of the Diocese over the past year, and you may have heard about some of the plans. To find out more, visit the following link <https://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/our-strategy/>. The Diocesan Synod has voted for a 6-month pause in the process, which will enable the Diocese to better communicate with parishes and clearly set out its financial position.

Locally we are already trying to establish a pattern of focal ministry, with Revd Joy Windsor and I each leading in two churches, rather than splitting ourselves thinly across four.

I am also involved in discussions with the parishes we may be clustered with, to establish how we could work together in the future. The current plans indicate that Rowlands Castle will be clustered with Idsworth, Warblington with Emsworth and the Hayling Island Parishes.

Young People and School

Thank you to those who were able to attend the recent meeting held to discuss the future of ministry with young people and St. John's school. It will not surprise you to hear that we have fewer volunteers than we had pre-Covid, and we are also without Emily Best and Chrissie Dobbs, who played significant roles in many of our activities.

I will now be taking the lead for All Age worship; these services are already running on the 1st Sunday of each month, and until Young Church can return the Holy Communion service on the 3rd third Sunday of the month, this will also be an all-age friendly service. Planning is underway to restart Young Church on the 2nd and 4th Sunday, hopefully from September.

Continued...../

/continued.....

I have been discussing the formation of a new Youth Club in Rowlands Castle with a local resident and Church on The Green. Plans are in the early stages, but we hope to have this established by September so keep an eye out for more information about this.

Little Fishes will also return in September, but I am exploring which day might be best for this, alongside my commitment to collective worship in school.

From September I will be leading a weekly collective worship at St John's School, and hope that we may also be able to hold a monthly after-school service. Pending Government guidelines on Covid restrictions, the school hope to return to church for its half termly services. There are also plans in place to start regular interactive prayer stations in school, and to revive the tired looking Peace Garden.

Volunteers

If you are willing to help with any of our ministry for young people, please contact me. We are not looking for anyone to take the lead but would love help with various tasks including setting up, refreshments, signing in, and preparing craft materials.

Please do continue to pray for our church school and for our ministry and mission with young people.

Every blessing,



Revd Vickie Morgan