



The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity, 6th September 2020

Dear Friends,

It was a very fulfilling experience to be back in church at St. Mary's last Sunday. All proceeded smoothly and our thanks are due to all those who made this possible.

I am very pleased to be able to report that we have taken further steps towards what we might regard as our "new normal" in these unprecedented times. This weekend, Holy Trinity will re-open for worship with a service of Holy Eucharist, whilst on Sunday 13th September, St. Peter's will re-open, also with a service of Holy Eucharist. I am sure that these will be joyous occasions. We are also optimistic that Christchurch will open for worship before the end of the month. We are grateful to those who have made these re-openings possible

As we give thanks that we are now able to worship in church, we also remember those who would like to be present but who are unable to attend. This week's service from St. Mary's will be available on the internet later in the day.

In this month's *Four Churches Magazine* you will have read that we are again conducting our annual Shoebox Appeal run by Blythwood Care for people in Pakistan and eastern Europe. It is good that, despite the pandemic, it is possible to carry out this mission and outreach to those who are less fortunate than ourselves. We are grateful to Anne Parr and Audrey Jayne for co-ordinating our response

In the weekly update from the Diocese, The Revd. Becca Stevens, Acting Diocesan Director of Vocations, writes as follows:

God calls all of us to serve. We are all called to worship God, to grow the Church, and to love the world. We are all called to be the light of hope, to be an example of faith, and to be a source of love. We are all called to be fully human and fully alive. We are all called to live Christ-like lives in God's service.

Assistant Priest: Reverend Jeff Pearse

St. Mary's Priory – Christchurch – Holy Trinity – St. Peter's

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God also calls all of us to serve the Church. How might God be calling you to service through the ministries of the Church in Wales?

There are a number of different ways in which you can serve the Church through the commissioned and licensed ministries of the Church in Wales. We are going to explore them over the coming months by sharing some testimonies and explanations of the different types of ministry. They will be placed on social media and on the diocesan website under the #HereIAmLord.

Commissioned Team Ministries provide an opportunity to serve alongside others within the Ministry Area. There are six different types of Commissioned Team Ministries, ranging across different areas of the Church's life, mission and witness: worship, teaching, pastoral, children and youth, evangelism and pioneering.

Licensed Ministries provide an opportunity to share in the leadership of an area of the Church's life, mission and witness. The Church's historic orders of Ordained Ministry – Deacon, Priest and Bishop – constitute three Licensed Ministries. Other Licensed Ministries include the ministry of Reader, Licensed Pastoral Minister, Evangelist, Pioneer and Family Minister.

As you read them or listen to them, reflect upon it, and ask God, in your heart, 'Is there something here for me?'

If you want to explore your vocation please talk to your parish priest, Ministry Area Leader, or contact the Diocesan Director of Vocations. Please pray that many will hear God's call across the diocese over coming months and years, to aid us all to follow Christ more closely and to share his good news.

As you read these words, which describe the many opportunities for ministry, please consider the question which Becca asks. Is there be something here for you?

With every good wish

Jeff

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