

## **St Alfege Church newsletter 26 September 2020**

### **A message from Revd Caroline Risdon**

After many months of waiting, and much preparation, the moment of returning to church for our main Holy Communion has arrived. We are back in the building tomorrow, Sunday 27 September, after just over six months.

There will of course be many changes. We, as members of the congregation, will not be able to sing together but we look forward to hearing the choir singing, safely, from the galleries. We will have a one-way system in place so that, when you arrive at church, you will enter through the North door (with the ramp) and leave the church through the South door. Once inside the church, you will have the opportunity to put on your face masks, sanitise your hands, take your order of service and be guided to your seat by one of our welcomers. All of these measures will take extra time so we ask that you could arrive in time to be seated by 9.55am for the service start at 10am. Seating cannot be guaranteed for those who arrive after 10am.

We will all be able to receive Holy Communion in one kind, the wafer. Being part of a church community and service is about many things - the act of gathering together; of listening to God's word; of offering praise and thanksgiving; of prayer. Sharing Communion together is a significant part of our being in communion with each other; and yet, it is still only one part. Please do not feel obliged to receive Holy Communion if you are not yet comfortable to do so. We have put everything in place to ensure we can meet safely. So please do feel confident to attend services and take part in whichever way helps you to feel connected and safe.

We await the installation of the new audio-visual equipment in church, which will enable us to continue with Zoom from the church building. We hope to be back online by mid-October.

This is a significant and joyous moment in the life of our community. I thank God for it.

God bless, Caroline

### **Readings and prayers for this Sunday St Michael and All Angels**

The [readings and prayers](http://www.st-afege.org.uk) for this Sunday 27 September can be found on the website [www.st-afege.org.uk](http://www.st-afege.org.uk). We continue to pray for those in need

and the departed. If you would like someone's name to be included in the online prayer list please email [office@st-alfege.org.uk](mailto:office@st-alfege.org.uk)

### **Services in the church building**

From 27 September- 10am Holy Communion service with choir resumes

From 1 October- 8am said Holy Communion service resumes

From 4 October- 8am said Holy Communion service resumes

The church is open from 12am to 4pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturday and 11.30 to 2pm on Sundays from 1 October.

### **Appointment of our new vicar**

The process of appointing a new vicar came to a standstill as the Covid19 pandemic took hold leading to the national lockdown. Happily, the process has now been restarted. There was an impressive field of applicants and the shortlisted candidates have enjoyed a full day's organised visit to St Alfege Church. They visited the church, the vicarage, our church school, the Old Royal Naval College and toured the parish. The Crown Representative hopes to confirm the appointment shortly after the interviews which will take place in October. Please contact Irene Bishop, Churchwarden, via the [church office](#) if you have any queries.

### **Message from Stephen Dagg, Director of Music**

During the summer my colleague Sam Barber, Organist, accepted the position of Director of Music at Christchurch, Kensington. Although I am very sorry to see him go, I'm sure I speak for us all in wishing him every happiness in his new role. Sam has given distinguished service to St Alfege Church over the last four years and we will miss him. The post of Assistant Organist at St. Alfege Church will be advertised nationally very soon.

### **Concerts and recitals**

We are delighted that our programme of [concerts and recitals](#) are now restarting from 1 October. As for services noted above, we will have a one-way system in place so that, when you arrive at church, you will enter through the North door (with the ramp) and leave the church through the South door. Please keep an eye on the [website](#) in case the situation regarding the pandemic changes in London.

### **St Alfege with St Peter's C of E School**

Our church school is now offering flexible nursery places for 3 and 4 year olds for 15 or 30 hour provision. The school provides a stimulating and engaging environment which takes into consideration children's individual

developmental and learning needs to help them reach their full potential academically, emotionally and spiritually. All lessons are planned and delivered by a qualified teacher who is supported by an Early Years Practitioner. Teaching is delivered in a well-equipped learning space both inside and out. Full wraparound care is provided through a breakfast club which starts at 7:30am and an after school club which finishes at 6:30pm.

For more information on nursery places please contact Daisy Smith on 0208 858 3613 or [email](#). More information on the school can be found [here](#).

### **Church hall bookings**

We are pleased that some of our regular hirers of the church hall are able to return for meetings and classes. Risk assessments have been undertaken and measures put in place to keep people safe.

Unfortunately while we are still in the midst of the Covid-19 Pandemic, for the foreseeable future, we are unable to accept any new bookings apart from previous regular hirers. In addition there can be no children's parties or other social activities in the hall.

Best wishes,

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