

Report: 9.30 Sunday Service

In the last 12 months, the 9.30am service has been punctuated by three lockdowns but we have been able to hold in-church services on 21 Sundays

The main points

1. With the Area Dean's agreement we have alternated between MP and communion. This was partly due to the lack of ordained clergy from the local area to help. At the time there were four unfilled posts in the Deanery.

2. The services used were those prepared by Nigel before he left the parish

3. We have been assisted by two excellent ordained ministers Alan Dibden (from Burnham) and Roy Burgess (from Easthampstead).

Our sincere thanks to both Alan and Roy.

4. In the latest start up in-church services began on Easter Sunday when Bishop Olivia presided. Pre-registration, distancing, and face masks have been a requirement.

5. Attendance has been around 30 which is about all we can accommodate given the 2m spacing requirement. This compares to 40-45 pre-covid attendance

6. In the last month we have widened the number of people taking part in the service in reading, leading prayers and preaching.

Our thanks to: Paul (and Lucy) on the sound desk, Andrew, Sue, Sarah, Ken and Matthew, Trevor, Mike B., and Penny, Mike B, Joanna for their assistance preaching, reading, leading prayers.

7. The biggest issue is song/hymn selection as we currently are not allowed to sing (only hum) and the search for relevant hymns/songs that fit in with the message/ theme of the service and have the words on the video is not always easy. The search can be time-consuming. Sound-recording quality also varies and sometimes the video starts off with the words but then they stop!

Some hymns/songs have words and music but the pictures are off-putting. Musical presentation can also be a problem - slow speed when we are not allowed to sing is not encouraging. (Drags)

Jacki and I have had an on-line meeting with Paul and one of the first things on the agenda after the licensing is whether he will wish to continue the pattern of alternating communion and Morning Prayer.

We look forward to singing again and to being able to socialise in church with refreshments and chocolate biscuits!