



Rector: Revd. John Chitham

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Notices Sheet - 20th September 2020

Keeping safe before and after church

The new 'rule of six' has come into effect this week, and we are warned that more restrictions are to come. Angie has told us that she spent an entire day in meetings at work, planning for the expected increase in Covid related admissions to her hospital, so the situation may become much more serious. As a benefice, we are aiming to do all we can to follow guidelines and so keep each other safe.

We can continue to meet for worship, and we thank God for that, and we continue with the policies inside church to keep everyone safe. However, we now need to address what happens both inside and outside church before and after the service. It's great to see our friends and fellow church family members, but we need to be aware of both the new regulations and the old ones, and care for one another. For example, some of those attending our services have said that they are nervous about leaving church, because they can't get past those congregating just outside the door without coming into very close proximity with others – and by then many of us have removed our masks, as we're outside.

From this week, please don't gather in a group of more than six after the service, and please move away from the door of the church as quickly as you can. We believe that it's OK for small groups of up to six to gather in the churchyard, well separated from each other, but it's not OK to move from one group to another, greeting different people.

It may be that you live very close by, or that there are several of our members who live close to you. Why not get together for coffee after the service in small numbers? Each of us is allowed to have up to six people at home or in our garden. We all long for the day when we can relax and spend time together over a coffee in church after the service, but until that time comes, please let's do our bit to help limit the spread of this terrible virus, and set an example to those who look to us to model a Godly response to current circumstances.

Live Services

To keep everyone safe, we are asking that anyone who wishes to come to church on Sunday at 10.30am books first with Marion. To do that, please email benefice.administrator@ubsms.org.uk. Marion will let you know before Sunday whether a space has been allocated. If you are not on email, please ask a friend to email for you. If you don't get a place for the next Sunday, you will be given priority for the following week.

It's now compulsory, please, to wear a face covering in church if you are able to do so.

Giving for our harvest services.

Our harvest Appeal this year will be for the Ellis and McGoldrick families, to support them as they continue their work of mission in Zimbabwe and Burundi respectively. Giving is more complicated while we don't have collections in church, but donations may be given or sent to any of our treasurers, or transferred directly to one of the bank accounts detailed below with the reference 'Harvest'. Thank you.

Virtual Services

Links to all our Facebook pages and YouTube channels can be found on our website.

Sunday, from 10.30 am: Morning worship service

This service, livestreamed from church and available later as a recording, can be accessed through the benefice YouTube channel. The communion liturgy (second and third Sundays in each month) is from the orange booklet we use in church.

Sunday, from 4.30 pm: The Centre

The Centre Community Church is still meeting to worship online through its Facebook and Zoom channel, but the work with children and young people will start in person this afternoon. Keep a look out for more information and updates on the Centre's Facebook page.

Monday to Friday: Daily reflections – Tales of Jesus

These take the form of a short video message. This is available on the Centre's Facebook page and YouTube channel each afternoon.

Choral Evensong 27th September

A service of Choral Evensong, sung by the Benefice Choir and friends will take place next Sunday, 27th September, at 6.30pm

In order to comply with social distancing, members of the congregation are asked to book a place if they wish to attend the service. Please email benefice.administrator@ubsms.org.uk by Friday 25th September.

The service will also be streamed live on our YouTube channel.

Contacts:

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The Centre:	David Wells	thecentrecommunitychurch@ubsms.org.uk	

This week's diary

Sunday, 4.30 pm	Centre youth work – Community Centre
Sunday, 4.30 pm	Centre service online
Tuesday, 9.30 am	Holy communion – St Catherine's
Wednesday, 6.30 pm	Wednesday evening Bible study for teenagers
Thursday, 7.00 pm	Choir rehearsal for evensong – St Mary's
Sunday 27 th , 10.30 am	Morning worship for harvest – St Mary's
Sunday 27 th , 4.30 pm	Centre service online
Sunday 27 th , 4.30 pm	Centre youth work – Community Centre
Sunday 27 th , 6.30 pm	Choral evensong – St Mary's

Groups in the Benefice

Many of our groups continue to meet over Zoom or on Facebook or WhatsApp.

Tuesdays, 2:00pm: Benefice Group for World Mission

BGWM has set aside Tuesdays at 2pm to pray for our mission friends, joining together in prayer in their respective homes. Anyone is welcome to join them. For more information please contact Peter A.

Tuesdays 7:30pm: Small Group - Grace

For more information please contact Tracey or Jo.

Wednesdays 4:00pm: Small Group - Dane Enders

For more information please contact Jacky or Heather.

Wednesdays 1:00pm: Small Group - Hearts of Jesus

For more information please contact Debi.

Wednesday, 6.30 pm: Young people's Bible study group

For more information please contact Caroline

Wednesdays 7:30pm: Small Group - M&Ms (Marthas and Marys)

For more information please contact Marilyn or Marion.

Men's Group

For more information, please contact David W.

Red Balloon Children's Resources

For more information about any of these, please contact Marion or Caroline.

BalloonStream

Every Sunday (10:15am for children and 11:30am for young people) they livestream a fully interactive, age appropriate church-like session via Zoom. Benefice families are welcome to take part.

Virtual Groups

They are running virtual youth groups for most of their regular churches based on games that work indoors and interactive Bible studies, again via Zoom. This includes our own Stars Club at Little Munden School, which will restart in the next couple of weeks.

FamilyBox

They have condensed their materials down into letterbox sized parcels to be sent out to families who are missing out on Sunday School/Sunday Youth provision, so they can explore faith together as a family. These are also available to benefice families.

Electoral Roll revision

As our APCMs approach again, the electoral rolls will be being revised in the next few weeks. The notices are up, and forms are available in all three of our churches. The lists will be closed and go on display along with the APCM notices from 14 days before the APCMs.

Operation Christmas Child

We have heard that Samaritan's Purse **will** be distributing Christmas boxes this year, as usual. More information will follow in the weeks to come, but please do be starting to collect small gifts and supplies. Alternatively, if you would like to donate money for Lizzy to use to fill boxes, please speak to her.

Keeping warm in services as autumn approaches

In order to keep everyone safe and our churches Covid compliant, we will need to continue to ensure good ventilation, even as the winter approaches. That means that, although we can warm our churches up before services, they will cool down rapidly once people arrive and the doors are not sealed closed. As the temperature begins to change, please wrap up warmly if you're attending services, and please feel free to bring blankets, hot water bottles and anything else that would help!

Please Continue to Support our Churches

If you would like to, we invite you to make a donation directly to our benefice. Below are the bank details of our three PCCs. If you don't have internet banking, you can send donations to one of our treasurers. Whatever you give will be used to spread the good news of Jesus.

	Standon	Little Munden	Sacombe
Bank	CAF Bank Ltd	NatWest Bank plc	Barclays Bank plc
Account Name	Standon PCC	The Mundens PCC	Sacombe Church PCC B Maintenance account
Account Number	00032168	28599551	90773689
Sort Code	40 52 40	60 10 39	20 20 37
Email	treasurer@ubsms.org.uk	Treasurer.lm@ubsms.org.uk	Treasurer.sac@ubsms.org.uk

If you are a taxpayer and able to gift aid your donation, please contact the appropriate treasurer for a form.

For your Prayers

As a church family, we pray regularly for each other and for our world. On this sheet, we suggest focus points for prayer for each week. These suggestions are not exclusive. Please continue to pray for the work of our churches and for those who have been listed on previous sheets.

Praise God

Praise God that our youth work at the Community Centre will resume this afternoon. Please pray for the Centre members who will be leading that work, and for our Red Balloon partners, who are also involved. Pray for all the young people who will attend, that they will come to know Jesus in a new and more powerful way.

Pray for our world

Tearfund writes that Yemen is experiencing the largest humanitarian crisis in the world today, yet few people know about it. As one of the poorest countries in the Middle East, the civil war has crippled the country's water, sanitation and health infrastructures. The nation is on the brink of famine, and the economy is facing collapse with high unemployment. A severe lack of adequate health care and clean water have exacerbated the spread of disease and illness. Thousands have died, and millions are in need of humanitarian assistance. Prayer is asked that peace may come, and that food, medicines, and other provisions will reach those most in need. Thank God for those working in this hugely challenging context.

Pray for our community

Continue to pray for health care workers as the NHS prepares for the expected dramatic increase in those needing treatment for Covid related illnesses. Pray for all those who have the virus, or who are fearful of this time. Pray that everyone will be extra careful at this potential flashpoint.

Pray for our Benefice

Please pray for our members who are regulars at Sacombe's Tuesday morning service, which resumes this week. Pray that all who come on Tuesday will find God's peace and nourishment as we worship together.

Pray for those in pain of mind or body

Please pray for all in our community who are sick or sad, including those who have been listed recently.

Please continue to pray for Chris, Michael, Richard, Rhys, Ellie & James and Sheila. Pray for others in need of our prayers at the moment.

Continue to pray for all those in care homes, including some from our benefice, and for those who are concerned about them.

Please pray for all who grieve.

Congratulations!

Joyce and Tony celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on Thursday. Our congratulations and love to them both.

If you are aware of anyone who would like our prayers, or would like the church family to share in some news, good or bad, please let Caroline know.

Please pass on any news, too, about those for whom we are praying. Please remember that we don't name anyone without their permission, but John would still want to know how things are going.