

## Letter from the Vicar

Saturday 19 June 2021

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Monday the Government announced a delay in lifting the restrictions placed upon us to limit our exposure to Covid-19, and in particular the new Delta variant which appears to be more transmissible and prevalent in society than previously thought. The news of delay is not surprising although not entirely welcome. We all want to get back to 'normal' as soon as possible but with case numbers increasing the delay seems to be the most pragmatic course of action and will hopefully fend-off another full lockdown! But as with all these announcements there are contradictions. One such contradiction concerns singing: it's ok to sing in a pub not in a church! I know a lot of us are missing singing in church. One course of action might be for us to hold our services in a pub; another might be to ignore the Government; but sadly I think for the time being we will just have to continue to comply.

Some lifting of restrictions will happen from this Monday including allowing larger gatherings of friends and families at weddings. This will be welcome news to the thousands of couples who have been forced to re-arrange their nuptials multiple times, and especially for our wedding couples this summer where our large building will enable up to 100 guests to celebrate with them.

This Sunday we will also be trialling at St Francis' and St Stephen's a return to coffee after the service. Due to the size of these congregations and the ruling that 'tables of 6' may sit together it should be possible for 2 or 3 tables to share in coffee and conversation.

The Government's announcement of delays has inevitably caused various events to be postponed to a later date. One such casualty is the MaSJ *Thank you for the Music* day, scheduled for 3 July but now intended for 9 October. As for our proposed BBQ and Cricket Match, and our Summer Fete, I can see no reason in law why these cannot happen. THEY ARE STILL GOING AHEAD. What we are trying to do is no different to what is offered in certain pubs. We will of course adhere to all the Covid-secure measures to keep you safe and enable fun and fellowship. If you haven't signed-up to the BBQ please see the sheets at back of St John's. I hope you will be able to join. In the case of bad weather we have some gazebos and we can also use our hall/church. Timings for the day can be found in the Newsletter and if you would like to play some cricket please let me know.

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying the delightful unpredictability of our island climate. Here's praying for good weather next weekend.

With all good wishes and prayers,



The Reverend Michael Macey

Vicar

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