

Arrangements for Services during the vacancy

The combined team of churchwardens and ministers want to ensure that congregations are kept well informed about the provisions that have been made to cover the vacancy, including any changes to the pattern of services. We have tried to ensure that we provide as much continuity as possible, and that no parish or worshipping group is affected disproportionately.

Background: We are more fortunate than many parishes facing a vacancy in having a “resident” ministerial team who will provide the continuity. However the additional help we need must come from a very small pool of retired priests available to cover “the gaps”, but there are other parishes in the area facing a vacancy who will also be asking them for assistance. This group, understandably are not keen on getting up early and travelling any distance especially in the winter months to cover the 8.00am and 9.00am services.

We have given priority to Family services because of the importance of developing and maintaining relationships with the young people and young families who may only come once a month.

We are grateful to a number of lay people who have offered to lead services of the word (without a Eucharist) and we know you will support and encourage them in this ministry.

Main Changes:

1. **Holy Communion at 8.00 am** continues every Sunday **except** on a 5th Sunday when that occurs. Regrettably we cannot sustain that.
2. On the 4th **Sunday** congregations from all three parishes will come together for a **combined Eucharist service at 10.30 am**. The venue will be rotated around the three parishes. The choirs from Oakley and Bromham will combine for these services so we should enjoy some good music. Where possible we will try to have a visiting preacher and celebrant, and to begin the ball rolling we have Revd Roger Billing joining us for the 4th Sunday in June. We hope you will give this your support and help to make it a joyful worship event.
3. There will only be **one regular midweek Eucharist service** – its open to people from all three parishes, and held in the Bromham Baptist Church on Tuesday morning at 10.00am. Please make it known that we use the downstairs room, easily accessible for wheelchair users – which has other amenities for people with impairment, including a loop system and WC for the disabled. Access is via the side door to the Left side of the building.
4. **Evensong pattern** remains unchanged - though it may be necessary for lay people to lead the service on some occasions. The 4th **Sunday LEP service** held jointly with the Methodists in Oakley will be discontinued for the time being. This follows discussions with our Methodist friends and has their approval, but there will still be an evensong on that evening.

We hope that the period of the vacancy will be a period of growth and consolidation for the congregations, and will provide opportunities to further develop people’s gifts and ministries. We are grateful to so many who have offered to support and contribute in many different ways to ensure that this time is creative and productive. We must not lose sight of the vision and desire which came from the Way Forward consultation of a growing and adapting church, energised by the Spirit, and reaching out to be relevant to all age groups in the community.

1st Sunday	1 st June	8.00am	Br	Holy Comm
		10.30	O	Combined Eucharist
		11.00	St	Family service
		16.00	St	Baptism
		18.00	O	Evensong
2 nd Sunday	8 th June	8.00	O	Holy Comm
		9.00	St	Parish Euch.
		10.30	O	LEP Family service
		10.30	B	Parish Euch.
		15.00	B	Baptism
		18.00	B	Evensong
3 rd Sunday	15 th June	8.00	B	Holy Comm
		9.00	St	Parish Euch
		9.30	O	Parish Euch
		10.30	B	Family Euch /Baptism
		18.00	O	Evensong
4 th Sunday	22 nd June	8.00	O	Holy Comm
		NO 9.00am or 9.30am		
		10.30	B	Benefice Euch
18.00	B	Evensong		
5 th Sunday	29 th June	NO 8.00am		
		9.00	St	Parish Euch
		9.30	O	Parish Euch
		10.30	B	Family Euch /Baptism
		12.15	O	Baptism
		15.00	B	Baptism
18.00	St	Combined evensong		

Please pray for the life of these congregations, and for the whole selection process and discernment to find a new vicar.