

**STARTS  
THIS  
SUNDAY**

## **COLD WEATHER MEASURES**

**St Marys' Church, Tetbury  
10am Sunday Services**

**Temporary move to St Mary's School Hall  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**. DON'T FORGET ... DON'T FORGET ...  
SUNDAY 7TH JANUARY 2024  
St Mary The Virgin & St Mary Magdalen  
Meets in St Mary's School Hall**

As I'm sure you know, we are making a temporary move of our 10am Sunday Worship from St Marys' Church to St Mary's School hall starting on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January, and for the next six weeks (last time on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February).

### **Why are we doing this?**

We all know the church is cold in the winter months, so the temporary move will give us some respite in the depths of winter. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) discussed this last year, and decided we should hold some of our winter services in the school hall. The PCC also wanted to get the balance right: so we celebrated Advent and Christmas in church and also returning for Lent.

This is also an opportunity to experiment! In our workshops about "reshaping" our church building, we have been reflecting on what it means for us to be church, with very many people being supportive of change. The temporary move to the school hall is a creative opportunity to put this into practice.

Lots will be familiar.

LITTLE FISHES continues to meet ... and there's tea & coffee after the service

Unfortunately, the practicalities of preparing and setting up in the school hall means suspending our Sunday 8.30am BCP Holy Communion just for these six weeks. Please be assured we remain totally committed to this service, returning Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Feb.

See the map below for directions to the school, parking and finding your way in, and some more information in the Q&As.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this move in all the planning and setting up that's needed, and prayers for the new undertaking.

With love and prayers, Poppy

### **The address for the school is: St Mary's Road, Tetbury GL8 8BW**

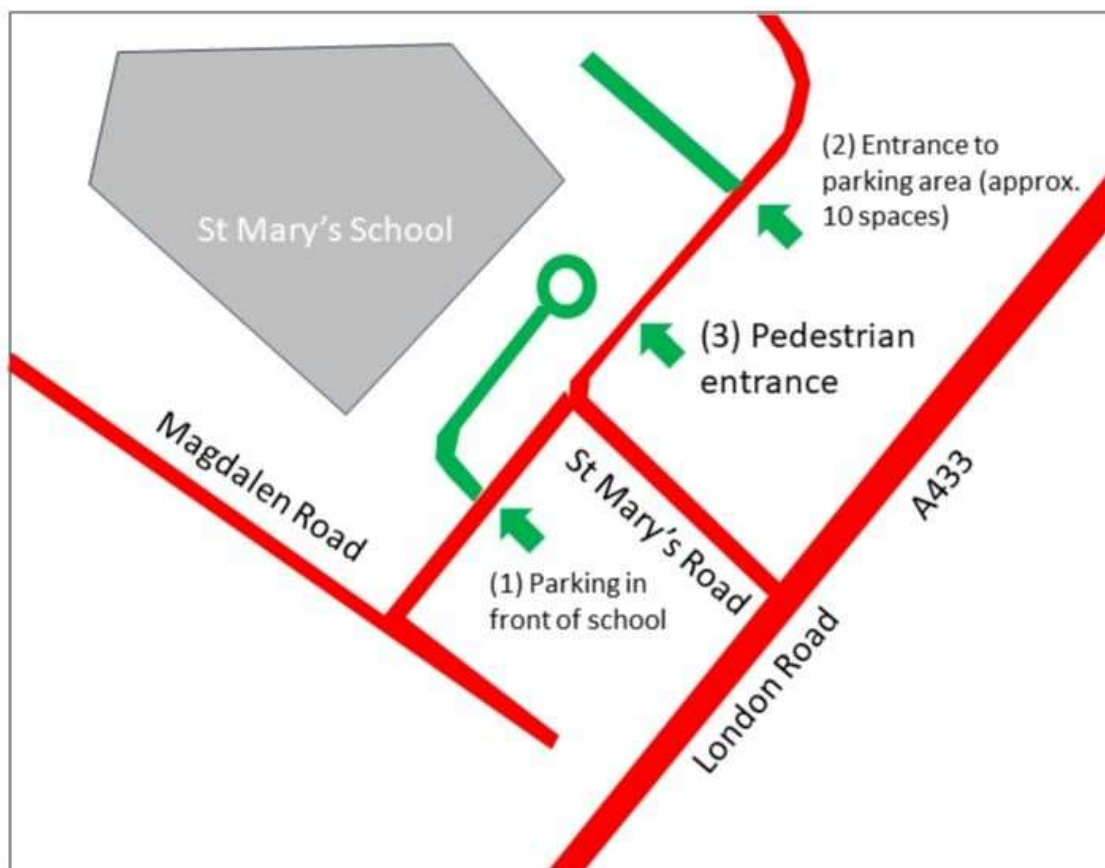
If you enter by the pedestrian entrance (marked 3 below), then you will see a gate to the playground on your right. Go through the gate, into the playground and turn left. You'll see the door into the school on your left.

There will be signs up as well!

**The main door into school will be locked, so you need to use the side entrance as directed.**

## Where can I park?

Information is marked and numbered on the map, (1) there are 20 parking spaces in front of the school – please give priority given to people with more limited mobility. You can also park on the road, including on the yellow zig-zags on a Sunday; and use the pedestrian entrance (3). There is also a little “car park” (2) to the right of the pedestrians' school gate with about 10 spaces.



We are meeting in St Mary's School hall for our 10am service:

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January (Epiphany)

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February

Hopefully this answers some queries ...

- **Will there still be Little Fishes Sunday School?** Yes, Little Fishes will meet in a separate area at the back of the hall.
- **Will we still have tea & coffee afterwards?** Yes. And we have plenty of experience of setting up and of providing refreshments in the hall from our monthly family church, iSingPOP Celebrate.
- **Will the services still be available online?** Yes, John Sharp and his team are kindly arranging this.
- **Will this feel like church?** For many people, this will be a new experience. It is an opportunity to reflect on "church" being the people, rather than building. As another

example, our Zoom Worship during lockdown was also very different, and many people found things to value. And throughout, the PCC is keen to hear what you feel about this temporary move, so we'll be collecting your comments throughout the six weeks and afterwards. The PCC will then review all of this in March 2024.

- **If there's no 8.30am BCP Holy Communion, where can I go?** Please do come to the 10am service in the school hall. We will also continue to meet for the said mid-week Eucharist at 9.30am on Wednesdays, for people who prefer a quieter and/or smaller service. There is also a BCP Service of Holy Communion in at least one of village churches in the Benefice each Sunday: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – Shipton Moyne; 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Beverston; 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – Beverston or Shipton Moyne; 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Long Newnton.
- **What's the sound system like?** We should warn you there is no loop system, but we will have microphones.
- **Is this a cost-cutting exercise?** We will save about £1000 pounds on heating costs over the six weeks and - in terms of environment impact - it makes sense to meet in a building that's heated 24/7. But as this is only for six Sundays, this is not a major factor in the decision.
- **What about the Wednesday 9.30am Holy Communion?** This will continue throughout the six weeks. Do wrap up - there's no heating on!
- **What about weddings and funerals?** These services will continue to be held in church, with families paying for heating required.

**What about bell ringing?** The bell ringers will suspend ringing on Sunday mornings for the six weeks. This makes sense as ringing is a call to worship, and we won't be meeting in church. They will continue to ring on other occasions, and to practice on Friday evening.