

# The Parish of St Matthew Little Lever

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Dear Friends,

## **Our challenges and joys this Lent, Easter and beyond**

I hope you have a good Ash Wednesday and a good keeping of Lent.

This year Lent will be more challenging for us than usual for us as a parish family.

It's great that Viridor have kindly granted us £100,000 which is going to enable us to make progress with our Church restoration scheme. That funding, together with funds which many of you have contributed to and fund raising in the future will make it possible for us to restore our church tower roof and masonry and the south transept roof. We knew that at some stage in the scheme of things our church building might not be available to us when major work was being carried out, but we didn't think it would be during this phase of work.

However, on Wednesday last week I received confirmation of the challenging news that we were going to have to face major disruption.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April (or certainly within a week or so after that) the church building will be uncomfortable and unsafe for large congregations to use.

The P C C have approved the following arrangements for that period and I have written to our Archdeacon for permission to carry them out.

From the beginning of April the 8.00 am Sunday Mass will be celebrated in Church House. The 10.00 am Parish Mass will be celebrated in St Matthew's School Hall. Week day worship will be in the Choir Vestry and the Wednesday Mass in Church House. Baptisms will be in Church House and we are seeking to make special arrangements for Funerals and for the Weddings that have been booked during that period.

Because of the nature of the funding for this scheme of work, and the terms and conditions that surround it we have had to make progress with it at speed. We could not afford to wait until after Easter and lose the grant of £100,000.

The P C C apologies for any inconvenience caused but is sure that everyone will understand that we have the best interests of St Matthew's at heart and need to grasp this opportunity to restore and preserve the fabric for the future while we can.

We are extremely grateful to the Headteacher, Staff and Governors of our school for their cooperation in these arrangements and for the support of the local Clergy and Ministers from King's Church and Christ Church who have kindly offered us use of their buildings if needed.

The main thing is that we keep together and focused during these challenging times and that we make the very best arrangements during this time to accommodate people as best we can.

Wishing you all a prayerful Lent and a very Happy Easter,

John Wiseman  
Parish Priest

