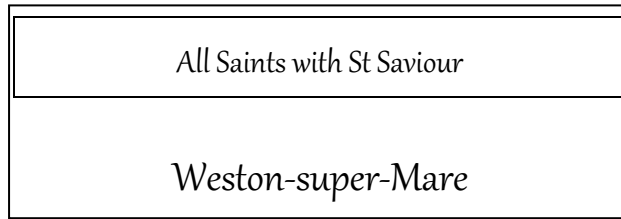




Arms of St Saviour



Arms of All Saints

12<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Dear friends,

Following a meeting with the Wardens of both of our Affinity parishes I need to share with you something of the discussion in respect of the timing of Sunday worship.

You all know that the main Sunday morning service takes place at the same time, 10.30am, in both of our churches. For the sake of fairness I divide my time between the two parishes, which means that someone has to cover the church where I am not.

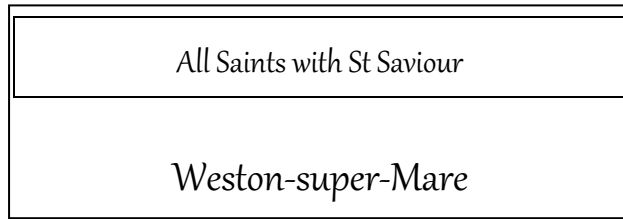
We have a varied and high quality team of people who help us out with this cover, no, more than that, their variety and insights add to the experience. BUT +Michael and Fr Mark travel from Taunton, Michael Tavinor travels from the Welsh Marches, and Fr Darren Smith (who visits us at All Saints) travels from Birmingham. We are privileged to welcome these great priests, but it leaves us vulnerable. In addition we have four local clergy, two in each parish, who help out when they can, and +Mike Hill in Clevedon.

The decision your Wardens made is that they (and I) feel that changing the time of the Sunday morning service to make it possible for me to cover both churches is undesirable. More than that they (and I) feel it would undermine and threaten the growth we have seen in both congregations.

There are however consequences implicit in this decision and I need to share them with you.



Arms of St Saviour



Arms of All Saints

There will be occasions when priestly cover at either of our churches will not be possible, due to people's existing commitments, as all of our visitors are much in demand. When that happens we will offer 'Holy Communion by Extension' presided over by Kevin, our ordinand, when he is available. All Saints has already experienced such a service. Bread and wine consecrated at a weekday Mass are received by the faithful in just the same way we always receive the Sacrament. The liturgy is the same except there is no Eucharistic Prayer (as the bread and wine have already been consecrated and the officiant is not a priest). Kevin will either read the sermon I am preaching in the other church or write one himself. Your Wardens feel that this Plan B is preferable to a change in the time of Sunday Mass.

We also decided that on two occasions coinciding with the Patronal Festivals (the first Sundays of May and November) there will be a said service only at St John's or All Saints and everyone will be encouraged to travel to Weston or Clevedon. These Patronal Festival Masses will be followed by lunch and an early afternoon service of Evening Prayer & Benediction. So please today put Sunday 3rd November in your diaries as the first of these Affinity Parishes celebrations. Mass that day at All Saints will be at 11am so there is more time to get there, and Mass will be said at St John's at a time yet to be agreed. We are determined to try and make this work.

Other decisions were made which require the consent of our PCCs, so more news about those in due course.

In the meanwhile Glastonbury beckons. Let's pray for good weather!  
With love and my prayers,  
Fr Brendan