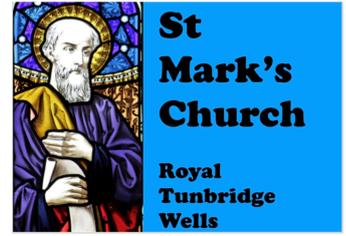




## KING CHARLES THE MARTYR AND ST MARK'S TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Vicar and Priest-in-Charge: Revd Laurence Powell  
Associate Vicar: Revd Canon Sarah Partridge  
Associate Vicar: Revd Claire Allwood



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Ash Wednesday (17th February) 2021

Dear Friends,

On Easter Day 2019, (when the former incumbent of St Mark's stepped down) the Archdeacon suspended St Mark's living and asked KCM (King Charles the Martyr) to support the parish through an emergency time. This was an interim solution. The relationship between the two parishes has been extremely positive and we feel it is now time to think about the future.

Following discussions between Archdeacon Julie, Laurence and Claire, a number of options were considered and the one favoured was that of a Team Ministry where each parish would have authority in its own right, particularly in regards to governance, finance and maintaining their distinctive church traditions but continue to share ministry and other resources. A paper was drawn up by the clergy and Churchwardens of both parishes and has been discussed by both PCCs. The PCCs now feel the time is right during Lent for us to share our thoughts with our church congregations and invite all our members to pray, think and discuss about the future.

The document which accompanies this letter give more detail about our current thinking and we invite you to read it carefully. We are inviting all members of each church to an online discussion event via Zoom where the clergy and PCCs can answer questions and hear concerns. These events will take place online but you will also have the capacity to interact with the discussion via the telephone. In addition to the online meetings, the clergy and churchwardens are very happy to receive e-mails or to chat over the phone. We are asking that all comments be made by Easter Sunday (4th April) 2021. All comments will be fed back to the PCCs for further discussion.



**KCM Zoom discussion - 7:30pm on Tuesday 2nd March 2021.**

**St Mark's Zoom discussion - 7:30pm on Thursday 4th March 2021.**

Details of the Zoom links will be published closer to the time via the parish offices.

This model is only a suggestion and it is important to stress that we are only at an informal discussion stage and this is not a formal consultation as yet. We do commend this model and consider it the one which most closely meets the needs of our parishes and takes St Mark's out of emergency measures. The time feels right to move into a new phase of shared mission and ministry.

With our prayers and best wishes this Ash Wednesday and for this coming season of Lent.

*Sent on behalf of:*

**Licensed Clergy**

*The Revd Laurence Powell      The Revd Claire Allwood*

*The Revd Canon Sarah Partridge*

**churchwardens**

**St Mark's**

*Keith Root*

*Brian Lester*

**King Charles the Martyr**

*Norma Buck*

*Linda Sorensen*

**PCCs**

*The Parochial Church council of the parish of King Charles the Martyr  
Tunbridge Wells*

*The Parochial Church Council of the parish of St Mark (Broadwater Down)  
Tunbridge Wells.*

