



WHOEVER SAID ALL THE CHURCHES WERE EMPTY?

Most Sundays at its 10 o'clock service, St Sebastian's Church on Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham Without, is full! To address this issue and to make space for the current congregation and to allow for future growth in numbers, it has been decided to move towards having two services to replace the current 10.00am service.

The new services, introduced on Pentecost Sunday, 11th May 2008, will take place at 9.30am and 11.15am. They will both be of the same type; ie Holy Communion on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month, with Service of the Word (which includes an in-depth look at a passage from the Bible) on the 2nd Sunday and Sunday 4 (an all age service specially designed for people who are not normally used to coming to church) on the 4th Sunday.

The vicar of St Sebastian's, the Revd Andrew Marsden, reassured the congregation by saying, "An important aspect for St Sebastian's is to maintain unity within the congregation as far as possible, so the two services will look and feel much the same." St Sebastian's has a thriving youth and children's work, and these groups will continue at both services (except for the all age service on the 4th Sunday of the month). The popular Big Breakfast monthly youth service in St Sebastian's School Hall will still take place on the 1st Sunday of the month, but with a new start-time of 11.00am. To enable both congregations to meet together, on most Sundays there will be a shared refreshments slot between 10.45am and 11.15am in the Church Hall.

A single service at 10.00am, followed by coffee, will be held during the month of August.

Andrew Marsden went on to say, "This is an exciting and challenging phase in the life of St Sebastian's Church, but with God's blessing this new arrangement will give us space to grow, and provide for all those wishing to worship Him here now and in the future. Anyone is very welcome to come and join us."

Further details of this change, and other events run by the church, can be obtained from the website, www.stsebastians.org.uk, or from the Parish Office, tel: 01344 761050 or email: office@stsebastians.org.uk.