Report for Maids Moreton Parish Council 14th April 2021

From St Edmunds Church, North Buckingham Parish

During the covid 19 pandemic our church has been a registered community hub for Buckinghamshire Council. This has resulted in the church being contacted by over 20 people, from the village itself and from Buckingham, who we have helped with shopping, collecting prescriptions etc. We have also kept touch with those in the village known to us who are on their own or who have been shielding. We would like to thank the Parish Council for including our church office contact details on the letter sent out at the start of the pandemic last year.

The church has continued to function, both by posting online services through the Parish website, and by holding Sunday services (when government guidelines have allowed) both inside and outdoors. Our outdoor services, for example Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday, Christingle, Mothers Day and Easter have been well attended, and social distancing is easy to achieve outside. Our weekly prayer group and fortnightly Bible study are both being held over zoom, and the church continues to provide a school assembly once a week to Maids Moreton CoE school, again online.

Our community coffee mornings (which are also registered with Buckinghamshire Council social services, and are dementia friendly) on a Wednesday morning from 10 to 12 have started up again, outside only at the moment, obeying the rule of six. They have proved a popular way for people in the village to meet together safely, especially those who may be feeling isolated.

Sadly, the church has conducted several funerals for those who have died of covid 19, and we have been able to live stream and record services for those unable to attend in person.

As we follow the governments road map out of lockdown we will continue to hold church services every Sunday and our community coffee mornings every Wednesday. We also plan to have our annual BBQ outside the church on Friday 16th July, an outdoor pet service on Sunday 18th July and our Summer Garden Party/fete on Monday 30th August. We also plan for our messy church to restart in September.