

Returning to our church building for worship (Message from Revd Dave)

I am pleased to announce that our church building is COVID secure and we can now open for worship on Sunday mornings. This is good news.

However, please be aware that **seating is limited to 30** (first come, first served), there will be no singing and the service may feel a little 'dry', so you may prefer to continue worshipping online.

There are other restrictions too:

- Services will be basic and short.
- Everyone must gel their hands as they enter the building.
- There will be a collection plate on the font, but this will not be passed around.
- Worshippers will be expected to remain 2m socially distant from each other, unless from the same household / bubble. This means sitting down promptly, no gathering in the aisle or immediately outside the main door for a chat and ensuring children always remain seated.
- When worshippers enter, they must sit in the next available pew, filling from the front and from the wall, taking care not to touch any part of the pew as you move along. There must be no heading for that favourite pew!
- Everyone (except the presiding priest) will remain seated throughout each service.
- Orders of service will be available to download, but will not be available to collect on the way in.
- Worshippers will be expected to complete a registration form each week. This is for Track and Trace.
- We will leave from the rear pew first.
- The toilet is for emergencies only, and anyone using it will be expected to spray disinfectant on all surfaces they have touched.

Initially we will host a 10.30am service only, with a view to opening at other times and on Wednesday evenings as soon as it becomes feasible to do so. Cleaning between services remains an issue but, equally important, rather than rush, it makes sense to take one step at a time. Then, if issues emerge, I will be a better position to deal with them.

Our service on 5th July will be a Service of the Word (i.e. the same as the livestreamed service). This will continue to be the case until such time as it is feasible to host Holy Communion without breaching social distancing requirements (hopefully soon).

I shall continue livestreaming, but at a brand-new time of 12 noon. Given our church building's severely limited capacity, **it is to be hoped that many will continue to worship via our Facebook livestream**. I do not plan to implement a booking system for now. However, I will revisit that decision should it become necessary.

The Church of England advises that certain groups of people may be at increased risk of severe disease from COVID-19, including people who are aged 70 or older, regardless of medical conditions. Whether you wish to accept the increased risk attached to attending worship with others, or prefer to continue joining with us on Facebook, is entirely your decision.

Of course, anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell) should not join us at 10.30am due to the risk that they pose to others; they should self-isolate at home immediately with other members of their household.

So, there we have it; progress!

God Bless

Dave

3rd July 2020