**Update 05/07/20 – THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Our church building is COVID-secure, so you can now either attend worship physically or continue to worship with us on Facebook.**

**Join us at 12 noon on Sunday on our Facebook Page for morning worship (****https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchAinsworth/****). Also join us at 6.15pm on Wednesday for Mid-Week Praise.**

***NB: If you are not on Facebook, you can still watch the service – when it says “Log in” “Create New Account” simply click “Not Now” (which is at the bottom)***

**Join us at 10.30.am on Sunday in church for Service of the word. However, please be aware that seating is limited to 30, there will be no singing and the service may feel a little “dry”, so you may prefer to worship online. Further details of the return to the Church service are given below.**

**Bible Reading** for 11am Sunday 5th July: Matthew 11.16-19,25-30

**If you missed any of our livestreamed services, some of them can be found on our website** **https://www.ainsworthparish.org.uk/online-worship.html** **or our Youtube Channel** **https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1kRCPBIymPoDSyhH9CZYrw**

**The Prayer Book Society lists some churches livestreaming BCP services: (note the new address)** **https://www.pbs.org.uk/churches-and-services/-1**

***New or Amended Notices:***

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

I am pleased to announce that we can now open our church building for worship in a COVID-secure manner on Sunday morning. This is good news.

However, there will be serious restrictions:

* Our seating capacity is limited to 30.
* 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 and no gathering in the aisle or immediately outside the main door for a chat.
* 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. Unfortunately, this means that any children attending must also remain seated throughout the service.
* There will be no singing.
* 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 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

***Previous Notices:***

**Radcliffe Online CAP Job Club** begins on July 9th and runs for seven weeks. Sessions last and hour and are at 1.15pm, repeated at 7.15pm.

Using Zoom, participants will watch a great video course, “Steps to Employment,giving opportunity for people to discuss the ideas and ask questions. Trying to bring a sense of community and encouragement. The course covers the subjects of:

* Finding your motivation.
* Overcoming obstacles
* Discovering your strengths.
* Writing CVs and applications.
* Succeeding in interviews.
* Getting ready for work.

Christians Against Poverty have a good track record. Interested? contact Julie on 07592 482 442 or juliemacauley@capjobclubs.org

**Face Masks:**During lockdown Barbara Clarkson has been making face masks.   They are of double thickness cotton, with a third pocket which contains a disposable filter, and a stiffener at the bridge of the nose to make a close fit. Barbara makes them from material left over from dressmaking, so there are several different colours and patterns.  If you would like one, she is happy to pop it through your letterbox. They are free, but donations to Church are welcome. Please contact Barbara on theclarksonhouse@talktalk.net or 07530 413149.

**Giving (amended notice):** Although Christ Church is closed for public worship, there are still significant bills to pay. Not least of these is the Parish Share. This is the common fund to which all parishes contribute, and from which most clergy receive their stipends, including our vicar. Because giving to this and other churches has declined significantly since the lockdown began, payments into the common fund have almost dried up. Yet, despite this situation, all clergy continue to minister, and all are committed to doing so. None have been furloughed.

Ministry is not cost-free. Therefore, if you normally make your offering via the envelope scheme or by placing cash on the collection plate, please consider setting up a standing order or making a bank transfer (contact Geoff Whittle on 01204 385452 or geoffreywhittle@btinternet.com). Otherwise, if you can do so safely, please drop your offering through the Vicarage letter box. (NB setting up a standing order or making a bank transfer **does not** involve giving us your bank details.) And, if you can afford to make a special donation, please consider doing so!

*‘The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.’ (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)*

**Church Magazine** – There isn’t a paper copy as Church of England COVID-19 guidelines prohibit hand delivery. However, a pdf version of our July issue is on our website and on our Facebook page. Please tell anyone you think may be interested so they can access it. Unless the guidelines change, we plan to issue the August magazine in the same way.

**Phoneline:** The Church of England has launched a free phoneline for the 'digitally disconnected'. If people call 0800 8048044 they will be able to hear music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services. Please share this number with anyone you know who is 'digitally disconnected'.

**Porch Boxes (updated notice):** Whilst it is not possible to receive donations for Porch Boxes in Church. However, if you shop at any of the following, they have somewhere to receive donations: ASDA (Radcliffe; Pilsworth & Bury); MORRISONS (Whitefield & Ramsbottom); TESCO (Bury & Ramsbottom) **OR we can still support Porch Boxes through a donation: A cheque made payable to “The Porch” sent to Michael Perrin, 14 Kenmore Avenue Bury BL8 2DY or Bank transfer to Account number 81643089  sort code 09-0155  account name The Porch or Online https://porchboxes.wordpress.com/**

**Please hold in your prayers:**

**The sick**: all who are ill, especially for: Mike Hayden, Deborah Sandercock-Pickles, Margaret Turner, Jacqueline Livsey, Stella Burkey, Louise Singleton and Ron Garside.

**The bereaved:** All who have lost loved ones, especially the family and friends of Kathleen Morris. May they find healing, peace, strength and courage to face the future.

***“The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.” (James 5:16)***

**Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.**