**Update 26/07/20 – THE SEVENTH 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 midday 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 below these two options)***

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

To ensure we are COVID-19 Secure, we will be using PowerPoint and not handing out service books. If you prefer, you are welcome to print and bring along your own order of service, taking it with you at the end. Follow the link and download: https://1drv.ms/b/s!Aurx6pWvMgOaiNZNBNpZlmHCaA33oQ?e=ogCVL6

**Bible Reading** for Sunday 26th July: Matthew 13.31-33,44-52

**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 have opened our church building for COVID-secure worship on Sunday mornings. This is good news.

However, there are serious restrictions:

* Our seating capacity is limited to 30.
* Services are basic and short.
* Everyone must gel their hands as they enter the building.
* There is a collection plate on the font, but this is not be passed around.
* Worshippers are expected to remain 2m socially distant from each other, unless from the same household / bubble. This means sitting down promptly (where the paper is on the pew) 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 any children attending must also remain seated throughout the service.
* There is no singing.
* Orders of service are available to download, but not available to collect on the way in. A PowerPoint version is also be projected in church.
* Worshippers are expected to complete a registration form each week. This is for Track and Trace and the forms will be destroyed after three weeks. A GDPR compliant privacy notice is posted inside church.
* 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.

Wearing facemasks is not compulsory, but you are strongly advised to do so.

Initially we are hosting 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 26th July will be a simple celebration of Holy Communion (i.e. a modified version of the livestreamed service).

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; further progress!

God Bless, Dave

***Previous Notices:***

**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'.

**School Admissions:** The Bishop Fraser Trust Schools (Canon Slade, St James Farnworth & St Katherine's Academy Bolton) have decided that, as places of worship were only open this academic year from 1st September 2019 to 15th March 2020, only attendance during that period will count for admission purposes i.e. points for this year will be based upon a maximum of 26 rather than 52 weeks. NB This decision needs to be ratified by the Regional Schools Commissioner.

**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.

**Porch Boxes:** 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/**

**Lahore Diocese (Pakistan):** Covid-19 is now increasingly affecting Pakistan after a relatively slow start. It is affecting the poorest in society the most, those who live on a day to day basis, those without reserves to fall back on, living day by day. The hospitals are full of coronavirus patients, and many low-skilled workers are now unemployed. Lockdown as we know it, is exceedingly difficult when you need to work to put food on the table. The Church in Pakistan is focusing its efforts on providing food parcels to those in need, and Bishop Mark is appealing to church communities in Manchester to support this work. He says, “We know that these times have been difficult for many, but if you do feel that you are able to support the poorest, with food and other essentials then it would be really appreciated, making a difference to friends and colleagues in the poorest areas of Lahore Diocese.  Our prayers continue to be with the people of Lahore and surrounding areas, with Bishop Irfan and those in the Church of Pakistan trying to provide food to those in need, for the church schools in Lahore Diocese and the vital work that they continue to do with their young people.” To donate, follow this link:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/lahorediocesepandemicappeal/

**Foster with Bury** – see notice on our website

**Please hold in your prayers:**

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

**The bereaved:** All who have lost loved ones, especially the family and friends of Bernard Sharples and Mike Hayden,. 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.**