

10th July 2020

Dear Friends,

The Church is open for Worship this Sunday at 9.30am and I am sending this letter out to you a day early because listed below are all the things we have put in place to make returning into the church building as safe as possible for all of us. The PCC and I have put these together by following the guidelines set out by the Government and the Church of England. I am hoping that these measures will reassure some of you who are unsure about coming into a public building, even though you might not be in the vulnerable or shielding groups. I am also hoping that the long list will not put off people who really want to come back to church to worship God in community again.

It is still the same Church, the same Holy Place, we are just having to do things differently for a while.

For the next two months, at least, there will only be one service on a Sunday and it will be at the same time as our normal midmorning service; i.e. 9.30am on the first, second and fourth Sundays and 11am on the third Sunday. So, next Sunday, **19th July, the service will be at 11am**. There will be a Eucharist at all these services, but do not feel you have to come up for communion if you are not comfortable in doing so.

I apologise to those of you who like to come to a Book of Common Prayer service either at 8am or 6pm, these will resume again, hopefully in September, depending on guidance received. Likewise we are hoping that singing will soon be allowed again.

For the many of you who are still staying at home, obeying Government guidance, be reassured that the online services produced by the Team ministers will continue until we are back up to the full rota of services. The links to these will continue to be published in ChurchConnect sent out by the Team Office each Saturday. If you don't receive this newsletter and would like to do so please let me know.

I am praying that I will see some of you face to face once more this Sunday at 9.30am. The collect prayer for this Sunday from the Book of Common Prayer seems particularly apt. We are praying for the world, for the end to the pandemic, putting our trust in God and our service to Him for the community.

Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by thy governance, that thy church may joyfully serve thee in all godly quietness: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With Every Blessing

Jane

**Please follow these guidelines when Attending Services at All Saints Church
Whiteparish until further notice :-**

- In the Churchyard and as you enter the Church please observe **current social distancing** requirements.
- Enter the Church by the **West door** for services (the North door should only be used during the week to enter the Church for private prayer)
- On entering through the **West door** your attendance will be recorded (this is for contact tracing purposes, should it be required at a later date)
- The seating arrangements within the Church are clearly set out and the sidesperson will help you.
- There will be an Order of Service on the pew to indicate where you are to sit.
- If you are in a group of one household please sit together in the same pew where there is an order of service. If you need more orders of service these will be available.
- Hymns will not be sung for the time being, but there will be some music during the service
- Most services will include communion, but this will be taken in one kind only for the congregation (bread) but the celebrant will bless and take both the bread and wine. However, you will still be receiving full communion. Be reassured that the celebrant will follow strict hygiene guidelines at all times and especially when preparing the elements.
- During the next few weeks the Altar will be in the nave.
- To take communion you are asked to come up to the Altar, keeping the required distance from others and remain standing so the celebrant can drop the bread into your hand.
- You should then return to your seat by the one way route which will be indicated to you.
- For the time being it is not possible to physically share the peace with others not from your household.
- No collection will be taken during the service. There will be a plate to leave your offering on the table by the door as you leave.
- When the service has finished, please leave your order of service on your pew and leave the Church by either the West door or the North door in order to allow social distancing between yourself and others.
- Whilst in the Churchyard please continue to observe social distancing.
- Please note that the WC will be locked. However, it will be available should you wish to use it. Please take the key from table at the back of Church, where it is clearly laid out and then return it where indicated. This is to minimise the requirement for cleaning if the WC has not been used.
- We thank you for helping us to keep you safe by following the guidelines above.