

## **Public Worship is resuming at St Francis**

### **GOOD NEWS! We will be resuming Public Worship in St Francis Church.**

As many of you will have heard in the government announcements, churches are permitted to resume public worship within certain guidelines. Whilst this announcement was made some time ago it took a while for the Church of England to issue guidance.

On Wednesday evening we finally received this and have been studying it. The Ministry Team and Warden have met to discuss the best way forward, which I will now outline below.

The first thing to say is that we are very aware that for some people the option of coming to church is not possible. Many are still shielding and some just feel uncomfortable with going into public enclosed spaces. We will be continuing to provide worship via the website for these people (although it will not be available until 12noon as we will record the 8am service and then it will be uploaded to the website after the 9.15 service has finished). This won't be such a professional experience as we have been able to achieve but we are improvising and learning together. We will continue to develop how we do things.

**From Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July** we will resume our normal pattern of services (10.30am Weds, 8am & 9.15am Sunday, 7.30pm Tuesday).

Our primary concern is the safety of all, so please be assured that we continue to adhere to all safety and hygiene precautions in line with the latest CoE & Government guidelines. This will mean that things will look and feel rather different and that our liturgy will be adapted to meet these guidelines.

For example:

- *Covid symptoms:* Please do not come to church if you or anyone in your household has a temperature, a persistent cough, loss of taste or smell.
- *Sanitising:* Everyone is asked to sanitise their hands as they enter the building and to not touch things they don't need to
- *Masks* are not compulsory but you may feel more comfortable wearing one.
- *One-way:* A one-way system will be in place in the building.
- *Social distancing:* The 2m social distancing rule applies inside church premises at all times – whilst this has been reduced to 1m in some places, it is still 2m in church.
- *Orders of service:* You will be asked to pick up a newly printed order of service; this is your own personal copy. Please do not share it with anyone other than members of your family group. Please take it home with you and then bring your service sheet to the subsequent services you attend (for your own use)
- *Communion:* There will be changes to the way we receive communion (which will be in one kind only); these will be explained during the notices
- *Collection:* We are not collecting cash, but will have our 'tap and go' card terminal available for donations.
- *Music:* We are not allowed to sing in church but we hope to play some recordings of our choir during periods of reflection
- *Refreshments:* Unfortunately we cannot offer refreshments after the services at this time
- **Children:** A group will be run during the 9.15 service, in line with all the guidelines. If you would like more information please do contact Rev'd Jenny or Nikki Clare.

We appreciate that things may feel strange but then much of life is like that at the moment. Your safety is our paramount concern but it is also wonderful to be able to gather again to worship together. God wants us to worship him; as we take this next step together, let us rejoice in what this allows us to do.

God bless and do take care

Reverend Jenny