**Public Worship at St Francis**

**GOOD NEWS! Public Worship has resumed in St Francis Church.**

As many of you will know, churches are now permitted to resume public worship within certain guideline**s**.

As a Ministry Team 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). We will continue to develop how we do things.

Our normal pattern of services have resumed - 8am & 9.15am Sunday, 7.30pm Tuesday, 10.30am Wednesday.

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 to how they used to 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