

Dear Church Family,



Another week in lockdown has passed, but you'll be aware that things are beginning to open up now, certainly for those who are less vulnerable to the effects of infection from the virus.

The big news for churches is that we're now permitted to open up for carefully managed Sunday gatherings. We have taken the decision to open St. Mary Magdalene Church, Geddington as soon as we can. The wardens and clergy are working through a detailed Risk Assessment provided by the Church of England.

We expect to open for our first service back together for worship on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August at 9:45am, this will also be streamed through Facebook. We will continue to run an online midweek service live from the vicarage on Friday at 10am via Zoom.

However, things are going to look a little different for a while. So, here's what to expect:

### ***When you arrive***

- We strongly encourage you to wear a facemask where possible inside the building.
- If you drive to church please be careful when parking and getting out of your car that you remember to keep your distance from other people/families.
- Try to arrive over a longer period of time than usual. So perhaps aim to arrive somewhere between 9:30 and 9:45 so we don't have a bottleneck at the door at 9:44!
- If there happens to be a queue at the door please wait in line to enter, making sure you are 2m apart from the person or household group ahead of you.
- You'll be asked to leave your name and contact details with someone on the door. This is to help with the government's Track and Trace initiative. We will hold your details securely for 21 days and then the record of you having been to church that week will be destroyed.
- Please use the hand sanitiser stationed near the door as you enter.
- Please sit where you're asked to sit. A sidesperson will show you to a seat. Once seated, please remain seated so that we're not all milling around. I know this will be hard because there will be people we haven't seen in months who we'd love to chat with, but please bear with us during what will hopefully be a temporary period of time.
- You will find a service sheet on the seat waiting for you. Please leave it there after use.

### ***The Service***

- Sadly, we won't be able to sing for a while, so don't expect to be singing your favourite hymns and songs quite yet. However, we will hopefully be able to listen to some music.
- Rev Gillian will bring Communion in one kind to you, so there is no need to leave your seat
- It will be a little shorter than usual, probably about 45 minutes in total.
- There won't be any children's groups yet. We'll do our best to make the service as inclusive as possible for children. However, you may wish to bring some colouring, a book or a toy that can be played with.

### ***Afterwards***

- You'll be asked to leave from the back first and not to hang around in the church building for very long after the service has ended.
- There won't be any refreshments served for the time being.

### ***Cleaning***

- The building will be quarantined for 72 hours after the service, meaning that there's no need for any special cleaning.

### ***Toilets***

- These will NOT be available.

### ***Do you have to come to church?***

Absolutely not! We will still be streaming the service online which we have done throughout lockdown. If you're nervous about coming, then please feel under absolutely no compulsion to come at all.

### ***Do you need to book in to come to church?***

No. We hope that we won't ever have to introduce a booking system because it makes it harder for visitors to come. Should we be getting to the point of capacity we will run a second Sunday service, and perhaps a third, in order to manage capacity.

### ***Do you need to wear a mask?***

We strongly encourage you to wear a facemask during the service where possible.

### ***Ongoing Risk Assessment***

The clergy and wardens will revisit the Risk Assessment on a regular basis. If you would like to feed into this process or have any concerns whatsoever then please be in touch.

### ***Online Option***

This will continue for the foreseeable future.

### ***If you're feeling poorly***

Please don't come if you're feeling ill, especially if you have any of the Covid-19 symptoms (raised temperature, new dry cough, loss of taste or smell). Obviously, if you've come down with something else it's wise to stay away for the week because we don't want to be giving anyone anything. If you become ill with Covid-19 symptoms during the service, please tell someone on the door and go home straight away. You and anyone else in your household will need to self-isolate as per government guidance. If you come down with confirmed Covid-19 in the days after having been in church, please let the Rev Gillian know.

### ***Please keep praying!***

Please do keep praying for the clergy, the wardens, the Church Council (PCC) who are all working to make church as low risk as possible.

With every blessing,



Rev. Gillian