

22 July 2020



Dear St. Luke's members,

I'm delighted that, following a detailed Risk Assessment, Trustees voted at their meeting last night to restart services in Church from **Sunday 2nd August!**

As I mentioned in my last letter, as we need to prioritise everyone's safety and avoid the spread of infection, we will of course need to comply with social distancing and health and safety guidelines. As such, we plan to offer just a short service (around 40 minutes), with some music (but not singing) and words, a bible reading, a short talk and some prayers. Sadly, there can be no children's groups or refreshments provided, and no hugging, or sharing of the peace. But there will be the presence of the Holy Spirit, and the opportunity to worship God together as His Church. There will be space for reflection and prayer too.

People will be asked to sit (with others from their household if any) in the worship area, and to keep socially distant from others at all times. You'll be asked to sanitise your hands with spray when you arrive and leave. Stewards will be on hand to help. After the service, people will be asked to leave the Church safely, rather than stay around inside to chat. Arrivals and departures will need to be staggered to avoid a crush at the entrance.

We'll have to carefully control numbers, so that we can seat everyone and maintain social distancing, so something like just 30 or 40 people to begin with. Of course, if you are ill or showing symptoms of Covid or have knowingly been in contact with any person with Covid, or displaying Covid symptoms, you're asked not to come to the Church.

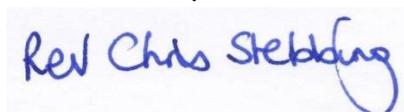
A full list of considerations for everyone's safety is shown overleaf – we'd appreciate it if you could read these before attending.

As I said before, **please don't feel pressurised to attend.** We will continue to support those who are shielding, those aged 70 and over who are advised to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside their household, and anyone else who doesn't yet feel ready to return to worship at St Luke's. The Dial-A-Sermon and printed texts have been very popular, and so we plan to continue these alongside online provision.

It's important that we know how many folk will be coming, so if you would like to come, please book a place in advance with our Churchwarden Joan. Her telephone number is **230 8679**

Thanks for bearing with us through this time. I am really pleased that we are able to make this start, albeit small and simple, and pray that things will change that allow us to expand this soon.

Yours faithfully



Rev Chris Stebbing, Vicar / minister

1. Pre-Attendance Communication: in addition to the items mentioned overleaf, please note the following:

- a) What the service might look like:
 - I. no singing, speaking loudly or shouting out
 - II. if service sheets/printed liturgy is provided, it will be single use and it will need to be taken away and disposed of by the user after the service
 - III. no Bibles – OK to bring your own but make sure you take it home
 - IV. If Communion is offered it may be in a different format to usual
 - V. prayer ministry after the service will not be available for the time being
- b) Importance of attendee's role in minimising the risk of infection:
 - I. don't come:
 - if you are showing symptoms of Coronavirus (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell)
 - if you have tested positive for Coronavirus or live/are in the same support bubble as someone who has the symptoms or has tested positive
 - if you have been told by NHS Test & Trace that you have been with a person with Coronavirus

In the above circumstances, individuals should follow the latest Government guidance on self-isolating

- II. sanitise hands on entering and leaving the premises and after visiting the toilet
 - III. follow Stewards/service leader's instructions
 - IV. practice social distancing
 - V. don't congregate in the foyer or elsewhere on the premises before or after the service
 - VI. remain in allocated seat/at allocated table
 - VII. coughing and sneezing
 - cover nose and mouth with a tissue
 - if no tissue, cough or sneeze into elbow, not hands
 - do not leave any tissues on the premises
 - if you have a normal, occasional cough, you should wear a mask whilst on the premises
 - VIII. avoid touching surfaces unnecessarily
 - IX. no handshaking or hugging
 - X. avoid shouting and speaking loudly – normal conversation level is fine
- c) we will not be able to provide lifts to church
 - d) arrive at the time allocated to avoid congestion
 - e) enter via the main, front door. If there is a queue, stay 2 metres apart
 - f) there will be no cloakroom – hang on to your coats and other possessions and take them when you leave
 - g) leave the premises, following the Stewards/service leader's instructions, using the same door you entered by and maintaining social distancing
 - h) In the event of an emergency evacuation, use the main entrance or the Fire Exit door by the organ
 - i) Toilet facilities:
 - I. there will be access to the toilets in the corridor and the accessible toilet in the car park lobby for anyone unable to use the corridor toilets
 - II. if occupied stand 2 metres away from the door to allow the occupant to exit safely
 - III. sanitise hands before entering
 - IV. using the antibac spray and a paper towel, wipe down all surfaces which you have made contact with – toilet seat, sink, taps, door handles – and put the paper towel in the bin provided
 - V. sanitise your hands on leaving the toilet
 - j) Anyone who contracts or shows signs of having the virus after attending a service, must notify Michelle, the Church Administrator, on 0114 230 3199 or Bob, Health & Safety Officer, on 07791 013429 as soon as possible