

Thursday 9th July 2020

Dear Parishioners

Greetings to you all in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are opening Wimborne Minster for public worship from this coming Sunday, 12th July. Please read this letter carefully for your own comfort and our safety.

- There will be two services of Holy Communion. The first, according to the Book of Common Prayer at **8:00am** and the second, according to Common Worship at **9:30am** (please note the earlier time).

Our Church Wardens have devised the safest scheme of opening that is compliant with present COVID-19 measures set out by Government. The advice from the Government and from the Church of England, restricts what we can offer at this time. We must maintain 'Social Distancing' at all times, and this includes during arrival and departure. Entry will be by the main door as usual, but exit will be from St George's Door, or the South Door dependent on where you are seated. Please arrive in good time and do not form queues or congregate wherein you become too close to those who are from another household ('bubble').

- We ask you to wash your hands before coming and use the hand gel on arrival. Facemasks are optional and can be provided if needed. We have to record attendance by name and contact number, for 'Track and Trace' recording, and keep this information for 21 days.

We are sorry that we cannot offer personal assistance with steps. If you wish to enter via St George's door, please inform us in advance through the office. Communion can be brought to you in your pew if you so request.

Holy Communion will be celebrated from the Communion Table set up under the nave tower. Seating for the 8am service will be in the side transepts only, and for the 9:30am in the main nave and side aisles only. If needed there will be some chairs available in the rear nave. This gives an estimated total capacity of 25 persons at 8am and 60 at 9:30am.

You will find that seating is only permissible in alternate pews. Families/couples can sit together along a pew, but singles should seat at the extreme near end and far end of pews which will enable us to seat two per pew, maintaining safe distancing. Please avoid touching all surfaces as far as is possible if you are sharing a pew with another single person. There will be no cushions on the pews in use. If you need a cushion, please bring one with you from home.

Prayer Books and Orders of Service will be placed in the pews, where they will remain. Should you wish to have the bible readings please print off from the weekly email sent out from the Parish Office and take them home at the end of the service. A few copies of the readings and the newsletter will be available for anyone who has not received the email.

At the time of distribution, the consecrated bread will be offered by the officiating priest, who will be wearing disposable gloves and a mask at that time. Please come forward, maintaining the two-metre distance and return to your seat following the one-way system as will be explained as the service starts.

8am is a 'Said Service'. At 9:30am the organ will be played and there may be a cantor to offer some singing on our behalf, but we are not allowed to sing at this time.

We intend to offer the opportunity for folk to continue to meet on Zoom after services and for meetings etc.

We are asking bible readers and intercessors 'on-rotas' to attend church in good time for the 9:30am service. The reader will offer both readings and should use the weekly sheet, which they can print-off at home. Please contact Jane in the office for precise instructions.

For those who feel unable to attend at this time, we will now be broadcasting the services live on YouTube (not Zoom) and advise you that to access the service on-line you should open your YouTube Application and search for Wimborne Minster Official 2020 12 07

We cannot offer tea and coffee after services, but the Parish Zoom channel will remain open to allow people to meet for 'virtual coffee', especially after the 9:30am service finishes.

We always invite financial giving, especially in this time when our income is sharply reduced. We would prefer regular giving through the banking system, however there will be a place at the exits to make an envelope or cash giving. No collection will be made.

- Our 11:15am Praise Service will continue bi-weekly, on Zoom as at present.
- There will be no Evensong at 6:30pm as we cannot sing in church.
- Daily Prayers will continue on Zoom at 8:30am (except Sunday) and at 5:00pm every day (including Sunday).
- Wednesday Agape Home Communion will also continue on Zoom for the time being.

We are looking forward to welcoming you back to the church or continue enabling your worship at home through our live broadcasts. I will write to you as things develop and do check our website and Facebook pages for information.

Please pray for us all as we try to stay together on a 'narrow path' at this time.

Finally, we have no way of knowing how many will be able to return to church. If we find we do not have enough capacity we will organise a booking system and perhaps introduce an afternoon, or early evening service on Wednesdays.

- St George's Chapel will continue to open for Private Prayer on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from Noon until 4:00pm.

With every blessing

Yours in Christ,
Andrew Rowland, Rector and Peter Cook & Andrew Patrick, Church Wardens.