

Dear all,

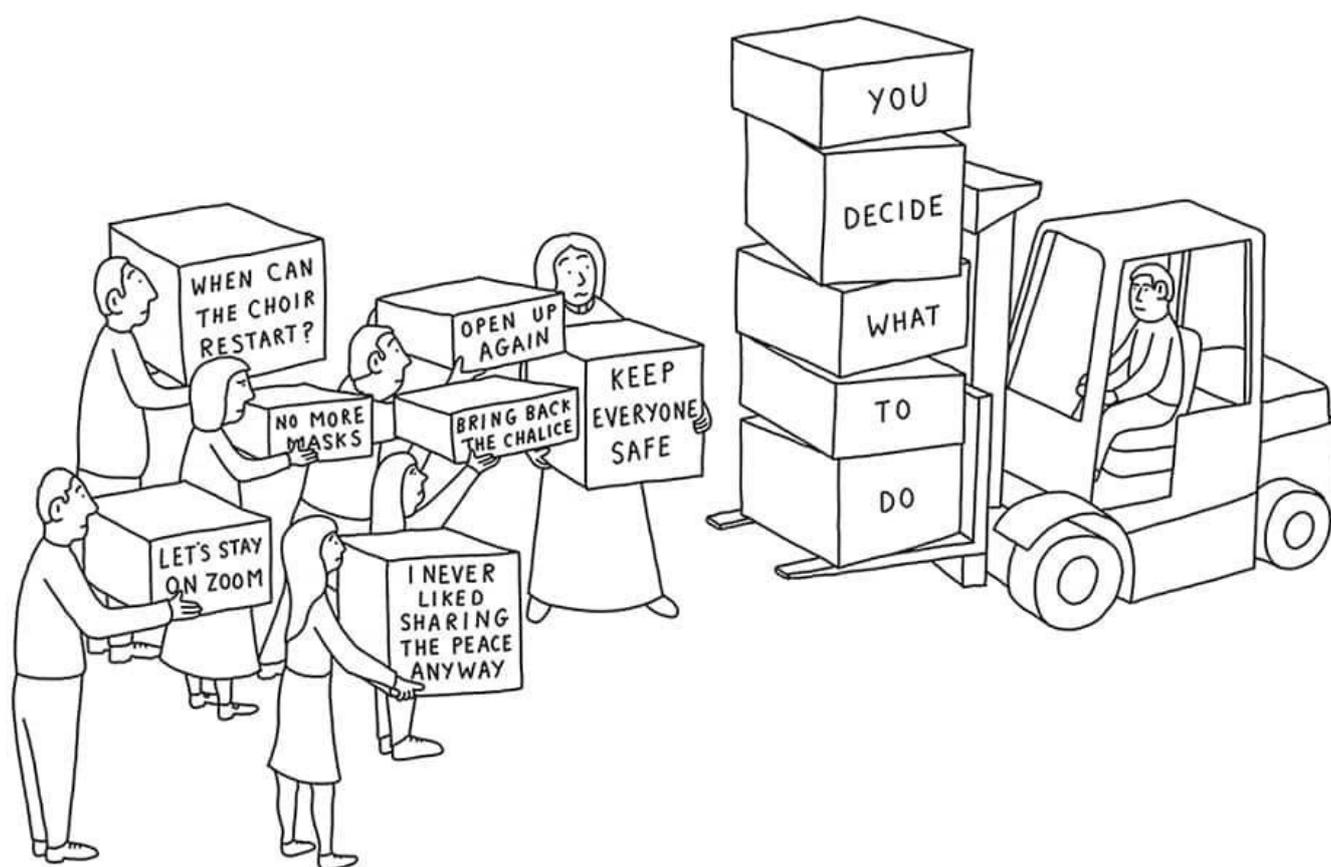
Well, Monday 19th was 'Freedom Day'. I don't know about you, but I haven't noticed much difference yet. Most people are very conscious of the fact that COVID is still around, and that we do still need to take sensible precautions.

The wardens, PCC, and I have been considering what changes we should make, if any. We will be making our final decisions before August, but I can say that we will continue to sanitise as we have been, we will continue to take communion as we have been, and (to use a phrase from my college) it will be a 'firm expectation' that masks will be used in church (at least some of the time).

Although we have been thinking together about this, the ultimate responsibility is placed on incumbents. As ever, Dave Walker hits the nail firmly on its head!

BURDENS

BEING PLACED UPON THE CLERGY



Another thing is that we will continue to share the peace as we have been doing. If people who are together wish to share in another way, that is their choice, but we will not yet be moving round the church, or generally shaking hands, hugging etc.

It reminds me of the wonderful song by Richard Stilgoe about Mrs Beamish, a traditional churchgoer who most definitely does not want to share the peace.

Here is the original, sung with the late Peter Skellern: [Mrs Beamish - YouTube](#)

And here is a very worthy update to reflect the Coronavirus: [Mrs Beamish \(Coronavirus!\) - YouTube](#)

The readings for the service are Jeremiah 45:1-5; Acts 11:27 – 12:2; and Matthew 20:20-28. The Psalm is Psalm 126.

Anglican chant: [Psalm 126 - YouTube](#)

[Graham Kendrick - Psalm 126 \(When the Lord brought us back\) from Is Anyone Thirsty \(with lyrics\) - YouTube](#)

[Psalm 126 - Sojourn Music - YouTube](#)

And in Hebrew, from the Messianic Judaism tradition (Jews who believe that Jesus is their Messiah). [Shir Ha Ma'alot - Song of Ascents \(Ps 126\) - YouTube](#)

Anthems suggested are:

Morales [Apostole Christi Iacobe - YouTube](#)

And one for Philip Astle, the same for Renaissance instruments: [Cristobal de Morales, "Apostole Christi Iacobe" à 4 - YouTube](#)

This also came up on YouTube. [For The Feast-Day of St. James, apostle: O beate Dei athleta Iacobe - YouTube](#) My Latin is incredibly rusty! However *athleta* means 'athlete', or more specifically 'wrestler'. *Iacobe* does mean James, however, I think in this case, it is referring to the Old Testament patriarch Jacob, who famously wrestled with the angel/God. (Google translate unhelpfully translated *O beate Dei athleta Iacobe* as *The beate Dei athleta Iacobe!*). But it is a pretty piece!

[Gaudet in coelis - YouTube](#)

Last week I introduced the anthem *All people that on earth do dwell* by Thomas Tallis, and talked about how he was a great survivor. I must admit that it sounded somewhat unusual for Tallis. It appears that it has been popularly misattributed. It was probably composed instead by **Henry Aldrich** (1647 – 14 December 1710), dean of Christchurch, Oxford. This makes much more sense stylistically.

Don't forget to get involved in the *Resourcing Sustainable Church* conversation – have a chat with me about it if you would like more information, and, above all, please pray as we work through the process.

Stay safe.

Blessings and love

Mark