

Dear all,

In my last letter, I noted that we would be producing new guidelines for church services. The PCC has agreed the following:

- We will remove the tape, and the one-way system round the church.
- We will keep as much ventilation as possible (doors & windows open).
- Sanitiser is required as before, especially on entering the building.
- We will continue using alternate pews, closed pews marked by a barrier of hassocks.
- We will continue with track & trace until 16th August (when it stops).
- We will retain masks, with 'firm expectation' that they are worn. We can permit masks to be removed during the quiet parts of the service (e.g. sermon, prayers) when sitting – but only if agreed by the people we are sitting with.
- We will start to use books again - books being given a week to lose any possible infection.
- We will allow congregational singing with masks on. We will start with a couple of hymns, not a full sung service until we see what happens.
- The choir will remain, as at present, in the sanctuary, but with numbers that can be spaced safely.
- We will share the peace as currently – not by moving around, or touching.
- We will continue to receive communion as we currently do – at a standing station, sanitising beforehand, and with mask on, only removed when reaching the Lady Chapel. Communion will continue to be intincted (dipped) by the deacon.
- We will introduce refreshments after the service, but in the hall, with doors open, and the use of the Church Garden.

These will be reviewed after 1 month, or if new guidelines are produced nationally. If you have any queries or concerns, please have a word with the vicar or churchwardens. As always, the key is living out our love for and responsibility towards one another.

The readings for the service are Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 and John 8:24-35. The New Testament reading, which we are not using in the service, is Ephesians 4:1-16. The Psalm, which we also won't be using, is Psalm 51.

Anglican chant: [PSALM 51 CHANT BY Choir of Westminster Abbey \(gospel hymn\) - YouTube](#)

[Psalm 51 \(Have Mercy On Me, O God\) - Graham Kendrick - Lyric Video - YouTube](#)

[Create In Me A Clean Heart - Keith Green - YouTube](#)

And in Hebrew: [Choneni Elohim, from Psalm 51 \(Be Gracious to me O G-d\) - YouTube](#)

Anthems suggested are:

[Wash Me Thoroughly – Easter from King's 2018 - YouTube](#) by SS Wesley

And Handel's take on the same verses: [Have mercy upon me, O God, HWV 248, "Chandos Anthem No. 3": Duet. Wash me thoroughly from my... - YouTube](#)

Various versions of Ave verum:

[Ave verum corpus \(Byrd\) The Gesualdo Six at Ely Cathedral - YouTube](#)

[Ave verum corpus, K618 - YouTube](#) (Mozart)

[Ave, verum corpus, Op. 2, No. 1: Ave verum corpus, Op. 2, No. 1 - YouTube](#) (Elgar)

Ego sum panis vivus (I am the Bread of Life):

[Palestrina - Ego sum panis vivus - YouTube](#)

[Ego Sum Panis Vivus - YouTube](#) (Byrd)

And the hymn version: [I am the Bread of Life // CJM MUSIC // BBC Songs of Praise - YouTube](#)

[I Am the Bread of Life by John Michael Talbot - YouTube](#)

In his blog ([Home - Nick Fawcett \(devotional and reflective writer\)](#)) yesterday, Nick Fawcett shared a prayer of St Augustine (of Hippo, North Africa, not Canterbury!).

The joy God gives us, now and always

From my book *A Calendar of Classic Prayer*, a prayer today from St Augustine of Hippo (354–430). Many of his prayers are instantly recognisable, others less so, such is the volume of his output. In the following, he looks forward to God's eternal kingdom, but this is no taking refuge in some ivory tower, getting through the present by focusing on blessing yet to come. Rather it's a recognition that faith should mean joy here and now, every moment enriched by the touch of God's hand.

O God of truth,
grant me the happiness of heaven
so that my joy may be full in accord with your promise.
In the meantime let my mind dwell on that happiness,
my tongue speak of it,
my heart pine for it,
my mouth pronounce it,
my soul hunger for it,
my flesh thirst for it,
and my entire being desire it
until I enter through death in the joy of my Lord for ever.
Amen.

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