

Dear all

At last I am able to announce that the Church will be open for Private Prayer from Wednesday 17th June. There will be restricted opening times: Monday, Wednesday and Saturday only. 10.00am - 3.00pm. We have cordoned off very clearly areas that are to be closed off, to ensure that we are able to keep the parts we use safely cleaned. Please keep to the marked areas, and follow good social distancing and hand sanitising practices. Currently we are only using the front row of choir pews to sit at – which means that there will only be 4 places to sit (4 people, or more if you are in the same household, or part of a bubble). There is, of course, more room to stand, or to kneel at altar rails.

We recognise that this is not ideal, but we are trying to follow the guidelines we have been given as closely as possible, for the safety of all. If there are any problems seen or concerns raised, please let me or the churchwardens know as soon as possible.

We have removed all kneelers as these are virtually impossible to ensure cleanliness. If you are likely to want to kneel, I recommend that you bring a cushion along with you. We have removed all lighters and tapers, but there will be a candle burning each day from which you can light other candles. We have also removed the Prayer Requests board out of reach, and there are no pens or cards. Anyone wanting names to be put on the board please phone or (preferably) email me, and I will ensure they are written up.

We would really appreciate volunteers to help cleaning after each session. There will only be 3 sessions, so the commitment should be light. Please let me know if you are able to help (but not if you are classed as being vulnerable).

Don't forget our Rose & Sweet Pea show website. You can log in and enter competitions (by photo!) or take part in the raffle – all of which raises invaluable funds for the church. The link is <https://rose-and-sweet-pea-show.wishpondpages.com/>

Nick Fawcett's latest prayer. Nick has just posted that, on 23rd June, he will have posted 100 coronavirus prayers, which he feels is a good place to stop, and focus on sharing other material. If you are interested, Nick's site is <https://nickfawcett.uk/>

Should we be struggling, Lord,
help us.

Should we be grieving,
comfort us.

Should we be suffering,
relieve us.

Should we be brooding,
reassure us.

Should we be despairing,
hearten us.

Should we be panicking,
calm us.

Should we be hurting,
heal us.

Should we be flagging,
strengthen us.

Should we be questioning,
answer us.

Should the challenge of these times be getting too much for us, Lord,

shoulder the burden with us,
and, if need be, bear not just our *load*,
but *us* also,
until we feel able to carry it once more.
Amen.



Stay safe

Blessings and love

Mark