

Dear all

As I mentioned at the end of the live service last Sunday, we hope to be able to start public worship again on 19<sup>th</sup> July. This will give us time to produce a full risk assessment, set the church up appropriately, and train sidespeople to manage the situation. Please note that this is an aim, but we will NOT open up unless we can be sure that folk will be as safe as possible. When we open up, we will be using the 72 hour rule to ensure that the virus has died off, and so the church will be open for private prayer on Wednesday and Saturday only, not Monday.

Our stewards are going to be very important in managing this, and it is likely that some of our regular stewards will not want to continue this role at present due to issues of health and/or age. **We will not be able to manage a safe opening without stewards, and so I would put out a plea.** Anyone who feels that they could help in this way, please contact Nick Drewett on [nick.drewett@outlook.com](mailto:nick.drewett@outlook.com) or 07900 585072.

One issue that we had to consider was that of music. We intend to release Chris from his full furlough so that he can play the organ for services. However, there are a couple of decisions to make, and we would appreciate any comments if anyone has strong opinions, by this coming weekend please.

We intend to have organ music at all the usual times in the service. We are not allowed to have congregational or choir singing. We can have solo or cantor singing.

We have decided not to sing the Sursum Corda before the prayer of consecration ("The Lord is here. His Spirit is with us." etc.), or the dismissal at the end of service, as this will exclude the congregational responses.

2 decisions to be made are:

- Hymns – listen to recordings; solo singer live; no hymns
- Psalm – spoken; sung by 'cantor', perhaps with spoken response (not chanted as previously)

Any additional comments will be welcomed.

The question of the children's services is one we will be considering very soon, but services will remain as Communion services, in the same way we have had during the lockdown, at least until September.

With the return to church services, perhaps we can avoid the unintentional contribution of our 4-legged (or in our case, 3-legged!) friends. Here is a wonderful clip of the Dean of Canterbury being upstaged.

[https://news.sky.com/video/cat-helps-itself-to-milk-while-the-dean-of-canterbury-isnt-looking-12023114?fbclid=IwAR2n6ynNR2Lsyqy1VMcWyz3we0buukM2ILM9S8dBXT-nYaQiW0mubulgk\\_c](https://news.sky.com/video/cat-helps-itself-to-milk-while-the-dean-of-canterbury-isnt-looking-12023114?fbclid=IwAR2n6ynNR2Lsyqy1VMcWyz3we0buukM2ILM9S8dBXT-nYaQiW0mubulgk_c)

I'll leave you with a non-coronavirus post from Nick Fawcett.

How often do we thank God for his love? How often, indeed, do we even acknowledge it? We're good at asking for things in prayer; that tends to be our forte. We're not bad either at asking forgiveness for our faults. But when it comes to praising or thanking God, we tend to struggle or simply forget. Here's a poetic prayer, from my book *Poems to Help You Pray*, that gratefully acknowledges the sheer wonder and faithfulness of the love God each day pours down upon us.

## Read

I will sing unceasingly of your unfailing love, O Lord;  
I will declare your faithfulness to all generations.  
Your constant love is unchanged  
from the beginning of time,  
and your faithfulness is as permanent as the heavens.  
*Psalm 89:1, 2*

## Pray

Like a bird soaring into flight,  
like the moon glowing in the night,  
like a flame, radiant with light,  
so, O Lord, is your love in my sight.

Like a gift worthy of a king,  
like a bud shooting in the spring,  
like a bond signalled by a ring,  
so each day is the love that you bring.

Like the dawn, fresh with morning dew,  
like the sea, old but ever new,  
like a dream, somehow coming true,  
is the love that I find, Lord, in you.

Like a sign, pointing out the way,  
like a field, sweet with summer hay,  
like a stream, flowing come what may,  
so, O Lord, is your love every day.



Stay safe

Blessings and love

Mark