

April 2021

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Church Leadership Team, meeting earlier this week, have decided that we should look to re-open our Church, for public worship on the day of Pentecost, the Churches' birthday, May 23rd. We hope the Junior Church will be able to recommence on the same day. As we have become familiar with over the past year this is subject to change if there is a further significant spike in cases.

Currently we are not aware of what conditions will apply on May 23rd but we will have to operate within Government and Church guidelines in place at the time. This means I cannot give you an accurate picture of what it will be like. Our planning will necessarily be based on the current position but will change if the advice to Churches is eased.

In simple terms we have to assume that people will need to book a place and provide contact details to help with track and trace. So can I again offer you the following possibilities:

- 1 To book a regular seat each week and just inform me when you will not be attending
- 2 To book a seat by the preceding Wednesday of the weeks you wish to attend

If you try to book after the Wednesday there may not be a space. If there are more applicants than seats a draw will be made to allocate places. I should also say that if there is more demand for seats than places available we will look to holding a second service. So please do not hold back from booking a place as we really would like to try and accommodate as many as possible.

Under the current guidelines only a small choir or soloist can sing, we will have to leave windows and doors open to aid ventilation and face masks will be mandatory unless people have a medical exemption. Under the current rules the congregation will need to leave as soon as the service concludes. I know this is not how we would want the situation to be but we have to act responsibly. Without wishing to raise expectations there is some suggestions that the position may change after May 17th.

I should also point out that under the current guidance lifts can be offered provided those in the car wear face masks unless exempt

Please do ask any questions you may have and please pray for our community as we, hopefully, move towards something more normal.

Then a couple of other things:

Roger Kirk and Kevin Hardern are hoping to organise a walk on May 22nd in the afternoon concluding with, regulations permitting, an afternoon tea at the Hardern's house. If you would be interested in joining this walk scheduled to last about an hour and a half and a half please watch out for details on the website and let Kevin and Elaine know (01296 481285). Please leave a message if no answer, it will be picked up.

Then a request to see if anyone can help. Our Church has been asked by the Circuit to run the Stoke Mandeville site and we are looking for a someone to be a contact point for property matters relating to Stoke Mandeville. Hopefully this would not be too onerous as there is one major tenant operating Monday to Friday. We have folk happy to help with repairs, bookings, finances and to be involved in strategic planning We have folk happy to help with repairs, bookings, finances and to be involved in strategic planning we do need someone to be the Property Steward, the main point of contact and to lease with Circuit Leadership Team on property matters when necessary. If you feel this is a way you could serve the Church it would be good to have a conversation.

We will try to keep everyone aware of any necessary changes to our plans.

Blessings