

Hello everybody,

Having opened our church building for people wanting to use it for private prayer, we are now preparing to worship together once again. I am writing to you to explain how we are going to do this.

### Resuming collective worship in church

We will resume collective worship in our church building on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July.

Two factors have significantly influenced our decision to delay resumption of collective worship to this date:

1. We only received the detailed guidance on the evening of Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June and the preparations we have to make are extensive.
2. I am away on leave on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July.

### Celebration of Holy Communion outdoors

In order to be able to offer people Holy Communion and using the fact that we have fewer things to worry about if we celebrate outdoors and emboldened by the relatively good weather forecast, we have decided to offer Holy Communion outdoors on four separate occasions next week and I would be delighted if you could join us at one of these services.

### But some people need to be cautious

It is very important to stress that not everybody is advised to accept this invitation just yet.

If you have been shielding or self-isolating because you are clinically vulnerable, the strong advice is that you should not attend collective worship inside a church building or outdoors.

If this applies to you, please call me as there may be other ways in which we can share communion with you. The number is 07794 122602 or email [revrobinpye@gmail.com](mailto:revrobinpye@gmail.com)

In addition, if you have been self-isolating because you are over 70, we don't want to expose you to unnecessary danger of infection. We will, therefore, be designating certain services as being only for people who have been

self-isolating. If you are no longer self-isolating, then please do not attend these services so that we can continue to respect each other's safety.

Finally, if you or anybody in your household has tested positive for the virus, is awaiting a test result or is showing symptoms of the virus (new continuous cough, high temperature or loss or change in sense of smell and/or taste), then you should not attend worship either until you have completed the appropriate period of self-isolation.

### Online worship continues

Online worship will continue as it has been.

- Sunday 8am service will be broadcast live on Facebook and then uploaded onto YouTube.
- Sunday School will continue on Zoom at 10am and 11am.
- Sunday Evening Service will continue at 6.30pm on Zoom
- Bible Study will take place at 7.30pm on Zoom on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July.

If you are experiencing difficulty in participating in this worship and would like help in doing so, please contact me.

### Procedures we are following

We have written a risk assessment which covers every aspect of our Services of Holy Communion. The measures we are taking include:

- Keeping two metres apart.
- Using disposable orders of service
- No singing
- Sharing communion in one kind only. (The body only)
- The presiding priest sanitising hands and wearing a plastic visor during the distribution
- The presiding priest bringing the communion to the congregation who remain seated during distribution.

If you have further questions about the precautions we are taking, please contact me.

### Times for the outdoor services

1. Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 3pm. Round the back of the church building.

2. Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm. Round the back of the church building. This will be a Mother's Union Service but everybody is welcome.
3. Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 11.30am. Round the back of the church building. This service is designated for people who have been self-isolating. Please do not attend if you are no longer self-isolating.
4. Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 6.00pm In the woods next to Saddlebole Farm. Please be aware that there is limited parking on the road once you have passed the drive into Saddlebole Farm in the direction of Mottram St Andrew.

All services will use Common Worship apart from the Wednesday service when we will use the liturgy contained in the Book of Common Prayer.

The weather forecast is encouraging but some showers are forecast. You will be out in the open. Seating is provided but you may want to bring an umbrella. At Saddlebole Farm you may want to bring your own folding chair, blanket or cushion.

These have been challenging times for us all. For many of us the accumulation of challenges is taking its toll. I hope that these special outdoor services of holy communion can renew our faith in God's purposes for us as we prepare to return to our beloved church building to worship together again.

Yours, in Christ

Robin