

# CHRIST CHURCH, DARTFORD

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Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020

**Dear Christ Church community,**

I am pleased to announce that we are planning to re-open for Sunday worship, **from August 9<sup>th</sup>, for a 9am service**. The restrictions that are still in place are such that we are not wishing this to be viewed as our 'main service' which will remain the online service, but we are keen to make something available in the church building for those who are ready for this. So, from 9<sup>th</sup> August we will try out a new pattern of Sunday worship:

**9am, in the church building:** A 'said' service (no singing is yet permitted) which will be fairly short (40 minutes, say) and will incorporate the option of Holy Communion for those that wish to receive that. Please see the notes overleaf for more of the practical details.

**10am, online:** The service that we put on YouTube will continue for the foreseeable future, and can be accessed via the Christ Church website (under 'talks') or on Facebook or Twitter, as well as by searching YouTube.

**11am, phone-in service:** We are also continuing the phone-in service but **please note the new time of 11am.**

The opening of church for **private prayer** is also changing. The current Tuesday and Saturday pattern will end on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August. We will then move to prayers once a week on **Wednesday afternoons, 2-4pm, commencing 5<sup>th</sup> August**. The pattern then will be worship on Sunday mornings and prayers Wednesday afternoons.

Our aim is to include as many people as possible in worship and prayer in ways that work for them. Many are not yet ready to return to a public gathering and we perfectly respect that. However, for those that can, we want to make that available. This pattern also gives us valuable experience of how opening the church works in practice, so that we can look to expand the provision in the future.

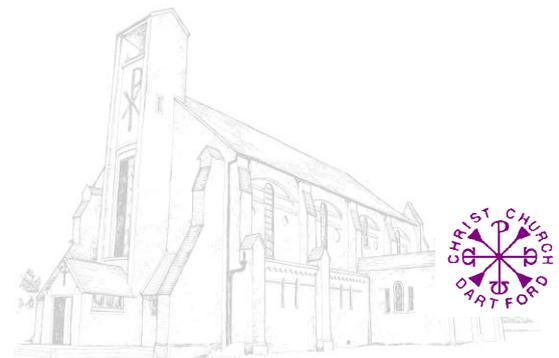
We dearly look forward to when we can all meet together again faced to face. But, in the meanwhile, may our love for God and for one another remain strong.

With love, and God bless you all,

*Richard*

(Rev Dr Richard Mortimer)

p.t.o.



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## Additional Information for the 9am Service

- Communion will involve the minister taking bread and wine but for the congregation only the bread, which will be in the form of wafers. This will follow hygiene procedures, including hand sanitising for all involved.
- Social distancing will be observed in church and the wearing of face masks is strongly advised (except when receiving communion) for all except those who are officially exempt.
- Although for safety reasons at this time we will be limited to 30 households per service, no advanced booking will be needed as we currently do not expect large numbers at this stage. We will keep this under review, as things open up more and numbers gradually increase, to ensure that everyone who wants to attend in person has the opportunity to do so.
- Children are welcome but will need to be supervised. People will sit together within their households, and if a family wants floor space for an infant to sit with them, please email the church office and that can be arranged.
- We are discouraging the use of the toilets at church but one will be available if necessary (the disability accessible toilet).
- Stewards will keep a list of those who come, for 21 days, for the purpose of assisting with the NHS track and trace system.
- Please don't attend if you are feeling unwell.

If you have any queries do please contact the church office (phone and email above). Despite the complexity of this it does provide an opportunity to gather in our Lord's name, which is a significant step forward. I do pray God will bless these occasions and that he will take joy in our offering of worship.

