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27th June 2020

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to let you know that we will begin to hold some services in church from Sunday 5th June. As I am in the shielded group, I will not be present. I find this frustrating as I would wish to be present with you to lead worship and care for you, but recognise that I have to continue to do this from the Vicarage for a little while longer.

From next Sunday we are hosting:

- 8:30am Holy Communion (BCP) in the St Aidan's Chapel
- 10:00am Holy Communion (CW) in the Nave
- 10:00am Holy Communion live streamed from the Vicarage on Facebook

We are continuing to be joined by our friends from St John's for these services and Revd Ann will be sharing leadership. St John's church is not available at present due to a structural problem with the spire which is being addressed.

You will not be surprised to hear that things will be different:

1. the total number of people at either of the services in church will be limited to 30. If you wish to attend, you will need to book in advance by ringing the Parish Co-ordinator on 07470 165893 between 9am and 4pm. The bookings will be on a first come first served basis. *(Please note that if numbers are exceeded you will be offered a place for the following Sunday, but we will not accept a booking for more than one service at a time);*
2. there will be a one-way system in and out of church;
3. you will be asked to fill pews from the front backwards and which pews are available will be made clear to ensure social distancing;
4. we insist that everyone covers their nose and mouth with a mask or scarf;
5. hands are cleaned on entry and exit and no gloves worn;
6. congregational singing is not permitted, but the 10am service will include music;
7. as we were going just prior to lockdown only bread will be distributed at communion, the priest will receive the wine on behalf of us all;
8. we aim to have copies of the service available through our website to print off in advance, though paper copies will be available in church. Prayer books will not be available.

I will continue to live stream a service at 10am each Sunday through Facebook for those unable to make it to church. This will remain available through the week and will also still be available from lunchtime on 01253 486701, where you can ring in to listen to the service. We are already planning how we can continue to share our main 10am service when we are all able to return to church together.

Unless we are told otherwise this will be our pattern throughout July and we will continue to assess the situation for August and beyond. I ask you to be understanding of the rules and requests, we are aiming to safely negotiate the situation we are faced with and if, like me, you are at all vulnerable please do not come to church just yet. . Let us cherish the opportunities to worship God whether at church or at home.

Yours in Christ, *Nick*