

RE-OPENING OF CHURCHES: PROVIDING MORE THAN WORSHIP

As we approach a world in which more and more of life is able to return to a new kind of normal we need to plan for the future of our churches. I am grateful for those who have done so much to help those churches which are able to re-open for private individual prayer. We are blessed with a growing team, having welcomed Mary Gubbins and with Anjali, our curate, joining us from 5th July. That said, we are mindful that under the current conditions many of our team are noted as 'vulnerable' according to government guidelines. They may not choose that term for themselves! For the time being each minister will need to assess their own risks against those of a particular church.

As a new normal approaches, now is the time to face the future of ministry in the benefice. Leading worship on a Sunday or midweek is often the public face of ministry yet it takes up only a fraction of a minister's week (preparing and leading worship is less than 7% of my week). We have asked PCCs of each church for their opinion on the following list and to respond in terms of their importance to the local community, in order for us to work out the best fit and provision possible across the benefice and allow us to grow into new areas that have already showed growth during 'lockdown'.

1. Monthly communion service in your parish
2. On-line weekly service (recorded and available to be downloaded)
3. A blend of on-line and face to face services
4. A service of prayers and readings only
5. Bible study groups
6. Pastoral care
7. What do you see as the minimum acceptable level of worship for your church?

**Please consider this in your prayers as we discern
Bybrook in a 'new normal'**

BYBROOK NEWS

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The Benefice office is currently closed to visitors

The last week or so has found me in reflective mood. My license to minister is due to expire on 29th June, and I have been thinking back to that Benefice service getting on for 13 years ago when a visiting minister from the Diocese talked about the need for more of us to come forward to train as LLMs. It was something which had been in my mind on and off for many years and that sermon was the spur I needed! But of course as you know it didn't stop at LLM and some 5 years later I was ordained Deacon on St Peters day. I had a health scare earlier that year but I was determined that if I was to be ordained it had to be on St Peters day. You see other than Jesus St Peter is my real hero of the New Testament .

Formerly known as Simon (Simeon) when his brother Andrew who had been a disciple of John the Baptist called him to come and join Jesus it must have been a big decision for him. He was older than the other disciples and married (we know this because the Gospels say that Jesus went to Peter's house in Capernaum to cure Peter's Mother in law who was ill) and Peter was a fisherman in partnership with his brother Andrew together with James and John the sons of Zebedee. So a lot for him to think about before he took off to follow a young preacher. To me Peter seems very human, he is sometimes hasty, sometimes unsure and in one moment of sheer panic on the night of Jesus' arrest he even denied knowing him. But whatever his faults, John's Gospel tells us that it was Peter who recognised Jesus' Messiahship, Peter who knew that Jesus was very special and Jesus knew that, given time, Peter would be special too, which is why he renamed him Cephas (Peter) and told him that he was the rock on which his church would be built. So you see I admire Peter because he wobbled a bit along the way but came good in the end.

Simon Peter

Upon This ROCK



I Will Build My Church

Oh and by the way I was relicensed today together with 4 other Associate Ministers by Bishop Viv using Zoom. Almost as nerve wracking as my ordination as I am a complete novice with Zoom. At the end instead of saying 'Let us depart in peace to love and serve the Lord our order of service advised us - Ministers and people depart as the Zoom call is ended. I wonder what Peter would have made of that?'

Rev Gillian Parkin

Church Dispersed

Worshipping from Home

If you don't already follow our [Facebook page](#), now is the time to as it is where you can be kept up to date with any new information. It is also where you will be able to see services as they are streamed live.

Don't forget to use the "Prayer From Home" service sheet which can be downloaded from our Coronavirus Resources webpage <https://bybrook.org.uk/coronavirus-resources/>

This resource can be used alongside the daily lectionary readings which can be found on the separate lectionary sheet

Live services will also be streamed on our [Worship At Home](#) page on our website for those unable to access Facebook.

Opportunity to get involved

If you would like to be involved with a reading, the prayers or perhaps the worship, we would love to hear from you. If you are keen to try but are not sure about how, then don't worry, we can give you some tips to help get you started. Just send an email to revmarcterry@gmail.com to express your interest and Marc will let you know what to do next.

Bybrook Online Services

Upcoming services: Streamed from 9.30am on our [Website](#) and [Facebook Page](#)

28th June / 12th July
Morning Praise
5th July / 19th July
Holy Communion

Re-opening churches

The Prime Minister announced this week churches in England can re-open for public worship and weddings from 4th July 2020

Also from 4th July the government guidance states that social distancing should 'where possible be 2m apart, when not 1m plus.' We are awaiting guidance from the Church of England on their specified distance.

Next Steps

1. When the Church of England issues a new risk assessment or updated guidance it will be shared with comments in order that PCCs can assess the risk for public worship and weddings in their own churches.
2. When PCCs have approved the said risk assessment (to follow as soon as possible), each minister will need to assess the risk themselves to determine if they can safely minister in that church.
3. Plan cover - all whilst trying to re-imagine what cover and provision might look like for the longer term.

This does mean that actually being open for a service on Sunday 5th July is unlikely (I for one will be at the licensing of our Curate that morning) but could follow soon after.

Open for Private Prayer

Whilst we consider the practicalities of the above, a number of our churches are now open for individual private prayer.

A full list can be found on our website at <https://bybrook.org.uk/private-prayer/>

Please note that each church will have their own specific protocols. So do make sure that you read the instructions at each church before entering and if you are uncertain contact the relevant churchwarden.

Useful Resources

Church Online

<https://bybrook.org.uk/worship-at-home/>
<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

**Common Worship Calendar/
Lectionary** <http://almanac.oremus.org/>

Daily Prayer Resources

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

Prayer Apps

<https://innerroom.app/>
<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/time-to-pray>

Online Bibles / Bible Study

<https://www.biblegateway.com/>
<https://www.bibleinoneyear.org/> <https://www.youversion.com/>
<https://bibleproject.com/>
<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/>

Children's resources

<https://www.bible.com/en-GB/kids>
<https://guardiansofancora.com/>
<https://www.bristol.anglican.org/familyfaith/>
<https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/make-and-pray>

Mental Health and Wellbeing

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/mental-health-resources>

For women suffering from abuse

<https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/>

For men suffering from abuse

<https://mensadvice.org.uk/>

For those wanting to stop abusing the ones they love:

<https://respectphoneline.org.uk/>



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

A Prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Prayer Matters



Please continue to pray for:

- * Those suffering from the Coronavirus.
- * The bereaved, having to process their grief during lockdown. Many unable to attend funerals or to comfort their relatives.
- * Those suffering from, loneliness, mental illness, domestic abuse or financially as a result of Coronavirus.
- * The wedding couples who were due to get married in our churches this month
- * The NHS frontline care workers.
- * The Police and Emergency services.
- * Care workers and those working in residential and nursing homes.
- * All other key workers and those still working surrounded by uncertainty.
- * Our government and those in authority who are leading the national and international response.
- * A building and strengthening of the blessings seen from communities working together.
- * Staff at Bybrook Valley and Kingston St Michael Primary Schools as they care for the children of Key Workers, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6
- * For families as they continue to negotiate home learning.
- * For the Team Council as they discern the way forward for the Bybrook Team