



***“Open to God, to each other,
to our neighbours”***

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September 2020 letter from Anesia

***How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
My soul has a desire and longing to enter the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.***

Psalm 84.1

Dear friends,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well.

This letter includes your 'Prayer Kit' for September. As ever, I hope you might be able to use and share it with your friends and families, and to bring it with you if you decide to attend services in church. It's been five long painful months, since we shut our doors in March. However, after weeks of prayers and discussions, the PCC has carried out a risk assessment and I am pleased to say that we plan to reopen the church from Sunday 6th September. Obviously at this moment, everything is in a trial period. In order to prioritise everyone's safety and avoid a possible spread of infection, we've had to make some changes to comply with social distancing and health and safety guidelines.

- 1) You will requested to keep social distancing at all times.
- 2) You will be allowed to sit with members of your household, while keeping social distancing from others.
- 3) You will be requested to wear a face covering or mask (there will be masks available in church just in case you forget to bring your own);
- 4) You'll be asked to sanitise your hands with alcohol based gel when you arrive, before and after communion, and when you leave.
- 5) There will be no collection during the service. You will be asked to place your donation in the Alms Box by the Exit door (Bannerdale Road).
- 6) Services are expected to be kept short, without coffee and biscuits afterwards. (Essentially because risk increases with duration).
- 7) Please bring your own Order of Service & Reading (included)
- 8) In order to avoid bottlenecks you will be directed to enter the building by the Abbeydale Road door only (Car Park side), and exit through the Bannerdale Road door only, except those with mobility issues.

Stewards will be on hand to help you to understand the changes in the church building.

9) Unfortunately we've had to reduce the number of chairs available (maximum 30), so it's important that we get an idea of who is coming. If you would like to come, **please book a place in advance with the Vicar on 0114-2509716 or 07952-833858; or by email anjesus@postmaster.co.uk by the previous Friday.**

In order to support the *NHS Test and Trace* programme we are requested to keep a list of all worshippers for 21 days only. Therefore, confirming your presence beforehand will avoid the need to take your details at the start of the service. When you ring or email you will be asked to give your full name and a phone number.

With all these changes in place, we plan to offer a service, with some music (but not singing). Sadly, there can be no hugging, or sharing of the peace, and communion will administered in one kind only - just the host (individual wafers). However, the Holy Spirit will be present in our celebration as we take this opportunity to worship God together in the church building.

Of course, if you are ill or showing symptoms of Covid-19, or have knowingly been in contact with any person with Covid-19 or displaying symptoms, you're asked not to come to the Church.

Please don't feel pressurised to attend, and we will continue to offer support to those who do not feel comfortable coming, or who are advised to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside their household.

We will continue to hold the Zoom service at 10am from church (To join in the 10am Zoom services please log in at 9.55am): **Meeting ID: 750-957-6115**, and enter **Password: 233588**

and the phone service at 11.15am (please call: **0330 336 0036**, and when asked, enter your **Guest PIN: 454562**).

Extra services in September

Sunday 13th September

Café Church at Holy Trinity Church Millhouses at 4pm

Sunday 27th September

Café Church at St Peter & St Oswald's at 4pm

Places at Café Church must be booked via Philippa 07818-153581, philippa@wilsondand.co.uk

I know that's a lot to take in, but if you feel confused about the new guidelines or are unable to attend the church service, please let me know. I'm really pleased that we are able to make this start. Even though it's small and simple it's meaningful, and I pray that things will change so that we can expand what we can offer.

May God bless you all.
In prayer & love, Anesia.