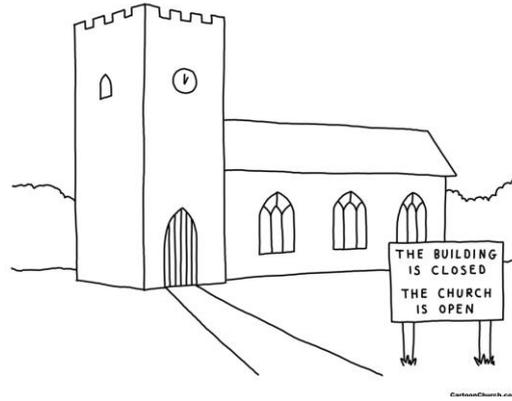


Church Online and Re-Opening the Church Buildings

During this time of lockdown, our benefice church services have moved online, and many people have been engaging with our Sunday worship and our weekday Morning Prayer. It has been so very encouraging and wonderful to see this, and realise once again, in a very visceral way, that Church is the people and not just our buildings!

That said, our church buildings are precious and sacred places of encounter and presence,



and there has been a lot of discussion within the Ministry and Church Wardens Team about how best to re-open our church buildings for Sunday services and public worship now that the government has permitted this to happen.

We are delighted to announce that we will be able to return to public worship in St Mary's church in Buckland on Sunday 19th July at 10am. We will also continue livestreaming our Sunday service, as we know that many people do not yet feel safe going into public gatherings (or that 10am Sunday is just not possible for them), so if you prefer to join us from your home, you can still do so. More information will come out via our mailing list, on our website and via FaceBook (see below).

Due to the needs for cleaning and the limitations we have with our volunteers, many of whom are vulnerable or shielding, it will be a gradual process for our other church buildings to re-open for Sunday services, so bear with us - the Ministry and Church Wardens team are working out how best to do this.

Please be assured that we will continue to provide an online service as a permanent part of our Benefice worship, so if for any reason you feel you can't come to church in person, you can always join us in worship via our YouTube channel (just search Benefice Cherbury Gainfield to find us) and we'll continue to send the direct link for this out each week by email to our subscribers. On the very rare occasion that all our tech helpers are on holiday, we will point people to the Diocese of Oxford "Church At Home" online service.

Our church buildings continue to be open for private prayer one day a week – so that there is a church open each day. Please see our website for more info – this is subject to change at relatively short notice as our churches are able to open more fully. Due to our volunteer limitations, at present we leave 72 hours between each use of the building to minimise or remove the need for full cleans between uses.

If you would like to receive our weekly mailings with updates on the benefice, church opening times, the link for the Sunday service on YouTube, and a 'thought for the week', you can sign up via our website www.cherbury-gainfield.org.uk or email the Benefice Office beneficecg@gmail.com.

All information above is correct at time of writing (9th July 2020) but please bear in mind that the situation is constantly evolving and that we are adapting and being as flexible as possible to meet the needs of the community. For the most up to date information, please see our website, our FaceBook page (search Cherbury Gainfield Benefice), or contact the Benefice Office by email or phone (07597 903813).

With love, light and peace, and blessings to you and all your family,

Revd. Talisker and the Ministry Team