

All Saints' Church

Church Walk, Harworth and Bircotes, DN11 8LH

The Rev'd Nicky Skipworth

07734 233742

nickythevicar@gmail.com

Friday 7th August 2020

Dear Church Family,

I'm writing on behalf of the PCC to give you the good news that All Saints' Church will re-open for public worship on **Sunday 6th September** at 10am; our first Sunday service since 15th March.

*Please read the whole of this letter very carefully - it contains important information which is meant to make church as safe and practicable as possible, always in line with guidance from the government and the Church of England. We need **your help, every week** to make this work.*

Please remember that if a person has at least one of the COVID-19 symptoms or has been in close proximity to someone who has, they shouldn't attend worship. The symptoms are:

- ❖ **a high temperature** - you feel hot to touch on your chest or back.
- ❖ **a new, continuous cough** - coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three (or more) coughing episodes in 24 hours - an existing cough may be worse.
- ❖ **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** - you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

In order to attend public worship on any Sunday, 6th September onwards, you will need to 'book' a place for yourself, or the people in your bubble, using the following procedure:

- ❖ Bookings open for the first time on Monday 31st August. Contact Churchwarden, Beryl Ord by 'phone on 07825 321888 between 9am and 9pm Monday to Friday. Places need to be booked for adults and children, but not pets. Beryl will 'tick you off' on Sundays.
- ❖ You may not book on behalf of another individual or someone else's bubble.
- ❖ You may not book places for more than one Sunday at a time.
- ❖ Please do not leave booking requests in a voicemail message - just call back a bit later.
- ❖ Do not attempt to book through anyone else but Beryl - this is an important safety step.
- If you or any member of your bubble will not attend after all, please call Beryl straightaway to cancel the unwanted place(s) because we might be able to give it to someone else.
- If you or anyone in your bubble has COVID-19 symptoms, please call Beryl to cancel places.
- If you do not book seats and we have run out of the limited spare seating when you arrive, you will not be able to attend public worship that Sunday.
- The maximum number of people permitted to attend public worship at All Saints' Church on any Sunday will depend on the number of individuals or bubbles booking places.
- We urge you to book your place every Sunday but a very small number of un-booked 'drop-in' places will be set aside near the Lady Chapel. Drop-ins won't be allowed to sit anywhere else.

When you arrive at All Saints' Church any Sunday...

- To give you adequate time to take your place, please arrive at 10 minutes earlier than you normally would. You should not be giving lifts to anyone outside your bubble.
- Both the Church Walk and Church Lane access points, and the car park, will be available.

- While entering and leaving the building, please observe all safety precautions. Your body temperature will be taken using a non-contact thermometer.
- Social distancing and building measures will make the building look and feel very different, with around half of the pews taped off. You may only sit with your own bubble or on your own; refreshments will not be served. The toilet will be available for emergencies only.
- Unless exempt, those aged 11+ are now required to wear a face covering or mask. If you need a mask, let Beryl know at your time of booking because she makes them.
- You will be shown to your seat(s). Once seated, please make every effort to stay in your seat.
- Those who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable, or are still opting to shield, are most welcome to attend and will have reserved seating in front of the organ (more information below).

What will the service be like?

- On all Sundays in September, the form of service will be Morning Prayer, not Holy Communion (we have special dispensation from the Church of England for this). Paper service sheets will not be used. Instead, please download the free Church of England app 'Daily Prayer' to your Smartphone or tablet device (e.g. iPad, Kindle etc.). To read more about it and download, click here <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps> Please bring the device with you to read from during the service. If you do not have access to such a device, please book a place and come along all the same. There will be live organ music during the service but no singing.
- As ever, children of all ages are welcome but there won't be the regular 'first Sunday of the month' All Age service until we celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday 4th October.
- Worship will conclude with an extended organ piece, during which people will leave the building from the door opposite the vestry. As you do so, please place your donation to church funds in the collection plate; at that point, candles may be lit as well. Please consider, even temporarily, using online church giving (church account 69162778 60-02-50), or visit <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/allsaintschurchhbs>. We will also offer fast and discreet contactless giving using a credit or debit card - to use this facility, please see the Vicar on your way out. Basically, please only bring cash if you genuinely have no alternative.
- Those who are classified as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable, or are still shielding, are asked to stay in their seat until everyone else has left the building. They will then exit by the front door.

And another thing...

- The September edition of the pew sheet is enclosed with lots more information.
- Starting that first Sunday, services will be live-streamed to our Church Facebook page. If anyone does not wish to be on camera, please inform Beryl at the time of booking.
- Look out for the handy video on the Church Facebook page to help walk you through how we will do church. The Church Facebook page is at <https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsHBSH/>

All of this work has, as required by the Church of England, resulted in an individual Risk Assessment for public worship, and each of the currently permitted church activities. All of these are available to view in the building (or by email from me). We could not have reached this point without the professional expertise of Jenny Bate, our Parish Health and Safety Coordinator, nor without the whole PCC, who have been fantastic. They all deserve our thanks and praise.

Finally, if you have any worries or suggestions now or at any point over the coming weeks and months, please tell me, Beryl or Jenny. We want to do everything possible to help you feel safe.

In Jesus,

Nicky Skyring

**Thank you very much for your help and support.
Please look out for updates as the weeks go by.
Nicky 07734 233742 Beryl 07825 321888**