

## Message from our churchwardens 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021

We are delighted to inform you that as of this coming Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, the doors to church will no longer be locked on a Sunday morning.

The Standing Committee (a sub-group of the PCC) met on Tuesday evening to discuss how we might begin to reopen the church to public worship and we unanimously agreed that the time was right to start this process. We are proceeding with what we are terming a 'soft reopening'.

We are desperate to open the church and gather in-person as soon as we can but we do need to remain cautious. When we began to reopen after the initial lockdown we made it very clear that we wanted to do so in a way that would make the most nervous person feel safe and that remains our priority this time around.

We would like to encourage those who can engage with our online services to continue to do so for the next few weeks to enable us to prioritise welcoming those who have particularly struggled or simply been unable to access the livestream or Zoom offerings.

It's also important to note that the children's work that has been happening for the last couple of weeks will continue on Zoom for the coming weeks, with a break for the All Age Service this Sunday (14<sup>th</sup>) - if you attend the church building you will be unable to take part in these sessions. With regard to this Sunday's all-age there will be a craft activity but no provision for this in church. We now have Zoom up and running and we are hoping it will be a fully interactive service between those in church and those at home.

We are also still bound by many restrictions such as not being allowed to sing or mix and mingle before, during or after the service. These restrictions are really tough and go against so many of our instincts, however we all have a responsibility to look after each other. By entering you will be agreeing to respect all the measures that have been put in place as well as the various laws and guidelines.

We really look forward to sharing fellowship with you all in the near future and we really value your support and prayers in making this a safe re-opening.

Matthew and Ian  
Churchwardens