

Dear Church Family,

We have some wonderful news. We are opening our church buildings again!

Mary Magdalene Church, Geddington and St Mary the Virgin, Weekley will open on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May for worship. The wardens and clergy are working through a detailed Risk Assessment provided by the Church of England for each church. The service in Geddington will be livestreamed and available through zoom. We will continue to run an online midweek service on Fridays at 10am which will also be an onsite service.

However, things are going to look a little different for a while. So, here's what to expect:

#### *When you arrive*

- If you drive to church please be careful when parking and getting out of your car that you remember to keep your distance from other people/families.
- Try to arrive over a longer period of time than usual. So perhaps aim to arrive somewhere between 9:30 and 9:45 so we don't have a bottleneck at the door at 9:44!
- If there happens to be a queue at the door please wait in line to enter, making sure you are 2m apart from the person or household group ahead of you.
- Everyone will be asked to leave your name with someone on the door. This is to help with the government's Track and Trace initiative. We will hold your details securely for 21 days and then the record of you having been to church that week will be destroyed.
- Please use the hand sanitiser stationed near the door as you enter.
- Please sit where you're asked to sit. A sidesperson will show you to a seat. Once seated, please remain seated so that we're not all milling around. I know this will be hard because there will be people we haven't seen in months who we'd love to chat with, but please bear with us during what will hopefully be a temporary period of time.
- You will find a service sheet on the seat waiting for you. Please leave it there after use.

#### *The Service*

- Sadly we won't be able to sing inside the building for a while, so don't expect to be singing your favourite hymns and songs quite yet. However, we will hopefully be able to listen to some music and weather permitting we will go outside to sing our final hymn.
- It will be a little shorter than usual, probably about 45 minutes in total.
- There won't be any children's groups yet. We'll do our best to make the service as inclusive as possible for children. However, you may wish to bring some colouring, a book or a toy that can be played with.

#### *Afterwards*

- You'll be asked to leave from the back first and not to hang around in the church building for very long after the service has ended.
- There won't be any refreshments served for the time being.

### *Cleaning*

· The building will be quarantined for 48 hours after the service, meaning that there's no need for any special cleaning. If there has been a wedding the previous day, then the church will be thoroughly cleaned with all touchpoints given special attention.

### *Toilets*

· These will NOT be available.

### *Do you have to come to church?*

Absolutely not! We will still be providing the same online option that has been available throughout lockdown. If you're nervous about coming then please feel under absolutely no compulsion to come at all.

### *Do you need to book in to come to church?*

No. We hope that we won't ever have to introduce a booking system because it makes it harder for visitors to come.

### *Do you need to wear a mask?*

Masks are compulsory (except where there are exemptions)

### *Ongoing Risk Assessment*

The clergy and wardens will revisit the Risk Assessment on a regular basis. If you would like to feed into this process or have any concerns whatsoever then please be in touch.

### *Online Option*

This will continue for the foreseeable future.

### *If you're feeling poorly*

Please don't come if you're feeling ill, especially if you have any of the Covid-19 symptoms (raised temperature, new dry cough, loss of taste or smell). Obviously, if you've come down with something else it's wise to stay away for the week because we don't want to be giving anyone anything. If you become ill with Covid-19 symptoms during the service, please tell someone on the door and go home straight away. You and anyone else in your household will need to self-isolate as per government guidance. If you come down with confirmed Covid-19 in the days after having been in church please let the Rev Gillian know.

### *Please keep praying!*

Please do keep praying for the clergy, the wardens, the Church Council (PCC) who are all working to make church as low risk as possible.

With every blessing,

Rev. Gillian