

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020

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Dear Friends

This week's letter contains practical details of the plans we have put in place for holding a short service each Sunday at St Peter's beginning on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August at 9.30 am**. Anyone who wants to attend must have pre-booked, and you will find details of how to do that below.

We are keen to create a welcoming and positive experience for everyone - and one that will be as safe and reassuring as we can make it. Obviously, we will be bound by all relevant Covid-19 safety regulations and guidelines and we want to reassure you that all the clergy, worship team, staff and support team members will have received instructions on keeping you as safe as practicable during your time in church.

We intend these initial services to be opportunities for quiet and reflective worship, mindful of the difficulties experienced by many people during these unprecedented times. If you don't feel that this is the time for you to be in church just now, then we respect that decision and hope that you will continue to worship with us through the online services we will continue to deliver before returning to the church building in due course.

If you decide that you would like to join us for a service, because numbers will be limited, we ask that you book ahead. Details are as follows:

#### JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

- In order to come to a service, you must to book a place beforehand.
- We invite people wanting to join us to telephone us in advance on:
- o August 2<sup>nd</sup> for services to take place on August 9<sup>th</sup> and/or August 16<sup>th</sup>
  - o August 16<sup>th</sup> for services to take place on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and/or August 30<sup>th</sup>
- On both 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> August, the 'Hub' telephone number 0151 428 6810 will be open from 9am to 6pm to accept your calls. Bookings will only be taken on those dates so please don't phone to register at another time.
  - If the phone is not answered, allow the call to ring through to the answer machine and give us:
    - o your name
    - o the number of people in your bubble who hope to attend
    - o your phone number
  - We will then contact you within 48hrs and advise you further.

People attending each service can expect:

- to follow a registration process for tracking and tracing purposes (please note that pre-registration is essential)
- to confirm their current state of health on arrival
- to note that we are strongly advised that face coverings should be worn inside the church
- to observe hygiene requirements by cleansing their hands on arrival and on leaving
- to maintain social distancing and follow the instruction of the support team in this respect
- to move through the church as directed
- to be seated where indicated by support team members
- to understand that no refreshments can be served and that very limited toilet facilities will be available
- to leave the church promptly once the service is over by following the directions of the support team while maintaining social distancing throughout
- to follow all Public Health England requirements should you or your family develop Covid-19 symptoms subsequently

We understand that this will be a very different St Peter's service than you are probably used to, but these are extraordinary times and only by helping us maintain a safe and assured experience can we hope to move through this period.

Whether we are in church, or out of the church, we are the church, and we can worship God together while apart with the whole of our lives. In Romans 12, Paul tells us how.

*'So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering .... Love from the centre of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle. Don't burn out; keep yourselves fuelled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.'* (The Message)

Wishing you every blessing.

Kip