

Dear Church members,

OPENING OUR CHURCH

While it has been announced that churches may open after the 4th of July, as I write this, the guidance on how to do so has not yet been agreed between the Government and the Churches. There has been a great deal of speculation about what will and will not be allowed, but even details reported by the media are just that, speculation.

Our latest update from Bishop Martin states that the following requirements are emerging thus far: public worship will require social distancing (1m+ between individuals and household groups), orderly entry and exit, hand sanitising at entrance and exit, no use of books but maybe a sheet which you take away, no singing, the president at the eucharist to wear a face mask and sanitise before and after handling the bread, the service kept short with no gathering in church afterwards.

The Churchwardens and I are looking at the official website regularly, and we will also keep up-to-date on ongoing directions from the diocese.

Whatever the regulations are, we will have to do a risk analysis first and see if we have the resources in place before we can reopen. This will take time and we cannot rush the process.

While we enjoy worship and being together, our first priority is to keep everyone safe. Both those serving in the building, as well as those who want to attend services. I do not expect anyone in a "at risk" category for age or health reasons to be attending or serving at our church. Furthermore, others may still have understandable reservations about the potential risks of meeting together at this stage.

Therefore we must ensure those who can't come to the church building are as well looked after as those who can - both spiritually as well as socially.

This gives us two equally important priorities: caring for those who can come to church, and caring for those who can't.

We would really value your feedback at this time, to help us as we plan the best way forwards. If the church building were able to be open for services from July, would you feel confident attending? What would make you more / less confident? Have you any suggestions on how we can successfully continue online worship alongside in-building services? All feedback would be very gratefully received – please send your thoughts to me or to either of the churchwardens. Thank you.

As the PCC, Churchwardens and I grapple with these issues, would you please pray for us, and be understanding if we cannot make the building available for worship straight away. If we can, we will, but our priorities will remain: everyone's safety and everyone's care.

ONLINE SERVICE & PHOTOS

In the meantime, do join us for our online service this Sunday at 10:30am. <https://www.facebook.com/christchurchmoretonhall/live>

Either this week or next week, the theme for the photos prior to the prayers is "Summer 2020" - In the light of the current heatwave, we'd like you send photos of this summer, whether it's you / your family enjoying (or hiding from) the sun, your garden, the countryside, wildlife or something creative you've done recently. Please email photos to Jonathan Corwin: j@corwin.co.uk

And finally, please remember that we are here for you should you have any prayer needs or concerns – don't hesitate to get in touch.

Every blessing.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Ford

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