

SUNDAY 14th June 2020
1st Sunday after Trinity

TODAY'S SERVICES

10 AM: Streamed Sung Eucharist (Fr Colin) on our website / YouTube

Hymns – Lord for the Years
The Servant King

Motet – *God has No Body now but Yours*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia. 'Proclaim the Good News, the Kingdom of heaven has come near', says the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia. ***Alleluia, Alleluia.***

Birthdays this week: Fiona Ross; Geoff Davies.

THIS WEEK'S DIARY

Tuesday 16th June

8 PM: Quiz Night via Zoom (please let Shirley Vann know if you would like to join in - s.vann@stgeorges.church)

Wednesday 17th June

10 AM: Streamed Said Eucharist (Fr Colin) on our website / YouTube

Readings Next Week

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Psalms 69:8-11, 18-20

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39

From Fr Colin

Dear all,

I am sure that you are aware that last week the government gave permission for places of worship to open for 'supervised private prayer' from Monday 15th June. As Bishop Christopher advised clergy at the time, there is no obligation for churches to do so and I am aware that clergy and PCCs across the country are considering how to respond to the possibility the government permission affords. Last week I

intimated at the streamed Eucharist that this would not be as simple as opening the doors and allowing people in. There are a number of conditions that need to be met before we can safely consider allowing people into our church.

Like many of you, I look forward to the time when we can enter our church buildings for private prayer, and later for public worship. At the same time, I have a duty of care as incumbent to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all those who enter our buildings. Over the past few days I have been reflecting upon a number of issues, among them:

- That whilst the infection and mortality rates are coming down, both are still comparatively high (a point made by both the government's Chief Scientific Advisor and the Chief Medical Advisor on 10th June 2020).
- There is a need for the government to clarify what they mean by 'supervised private prayer'. Such a phrase is an oxymoron since prayer that is 'supervised' cannot be 'private'. One assumes they mean that the church building will be supervised to limit the numbers of people in church at any one time, and to ensure that those coming in use hand sanitiser and that they socially distance themselves from others. If this is the case, then there are further considerations that need to be reflected upon.
- Do we have enough people who are not considered Clinically Vulnerable to supervise the church building when it is open? (I use the phrase 'clinically vulnerable' in the technical sense adopted by the NHS to refer to those who are over 70, pregnant or have an underlying health condition, which would mean they are at moderate risk of infection)
- Do we have protocols in place to help supervisors to cope with any visitors who might behave anti-socially, particularly aggressively or violently?
- How do we ensure that all surfaces are clean and sanitised before, during, and after people arrive and leave?
- How, and from whom, do we procure adequate sanitiser and other necessary PPE before we open our doors?
- Can we ensure enough volunteers to remove and store all books, leaflets, toys and soft furnishings (which carry a risk of transmission), and possibly move some church furniture before we open for supervised private prayer?

I am quite clear that it is not possible or safe for us to open our church in the very near future, certainly not next week.

Last night, this was discussed at length by the PCC who were broadly in agreement with me. We concluded that myself, along with the Church Wardens and two members of our PCC who have professional expertise in health and wellbeing, meet as a matter of urgency (whilst maintaining social distancing rules) to prepare a risk assessment and an action plan so that we can open as soon as possible, safely and with a minimum of risk. This will also help us consider the use of our church building for funerals (also theoretically allowable from the 15th June, but not possible for us at present) and will put us in good stead for reopening of churches for public worship, which might be allowed in July. A risk assessment is in fact a government requirement before we reopen in any event.

I appreciate that many of you will be disappointed with the contents of this email, but hope you will appreciate that myself, the wardens and the PCC, are considering your health and wellbeing, as well as that of our local community, and that our aim is to have our church open as soon as is safely and practically possible.

With assurance of prayers

Fr Colin

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Remembering Those Who Need Our Prayers This Week

Shelley Lazlett, Geoff, Anna Chapman, Christopher, Richard Rundle, Hillary, Madison, Amy, Carmell, Christine, Sandra Hewett, Spencer, Margaret Cavey, John Haughton, Anne Brown, Pete, Jenny Pilling, Fr Charles, June Webster, Annie Sharp, Howe Sae Kang, Lauren Keenan, Martin.

We Remember Ken Bradley, whose anniversary falls at this time.



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