



## St Giles' & St Eata's Shrewsbury

18<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Since the beginning of January 2021 both St Giles and St Eata's churches have been closed due to the lock down and to prevent the stop of the Covid-19 virus from affecting any members of the congregation.

As we begin to witness the ending of restrictions it has been announced by Bishop Michael of Lichfield that all churches within the Diocese of Lichfield can **re-open for Public worship**. Consequently, I am delighted to inform you that both St Giles and St Eata's will be re-opening as from **Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> March: Palm Sunday**.

This will enable everyone to enter into Holy Week by celebrating together on Palm Sunday and joining together to celebrate with great joy and enthusiasm the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus, on Easter Sunday. I am sorry to inform you but we will **not be able to hold the 8.00am Sunday Morning Eucharist** till further notice, due to the regulations. It will return as soon as it is safe to do so!



**At St Giles Church** we would ask those attending the services to have pre-booked. You can do this via the parish office by emailing:

[stgilesshrew@btconnect.com](mailto:stgilesshrew@btconnect.com) or phoning 01743 355300 and leaving a message for Katherine. Katherine, our Parish Administrator will be in the office from the afternoon of **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March and on a Thursday morning**.

**WEDNESDAY 10.00am Eucharist Services** – These will commence from Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March. Please pre-book via the office for these services.

**At St Eata's** please would you confirm with either Stephen Caney or Gill Burton, the wardens, should you wish to attend. Once again please abide by the social distancing rules, masks must be worn, hands sanitized and a track and trace must be kept. Please enter and exit by the appropriate doors and please do not congregate at entrances and exits.

Whilst these regulations may seem formal they are for the well-being of all concerned and hopefully, as we move forward, these can be relaxed in due course. However, the diocese has asked that we make sure these regulations are abided by.

**On entering into either Church:-** Please wear a mask, use the hand sanitizer on entry and before receiving your communion. Please enter and exit the building by the appropriate doors and remember to keep a safe and appropriate distance from one another. Please do not congregate at entrances and exits.



As we will not be able to gather in the churches during Holy week each evening, due to the Covid-19 regulations. Each morning through-out the week, starting **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30am there will be services of Morning Prayer and each Evening at 8.00pm a reflective service concluding with Night Prayer.** These services will be held on Zoom and an invite will be sent with zoom details and the orders of service in the near future.

Over the period of lock-down many have valued the experience of worshipping together via Zoom. As a result I am planning that in conjunction with the Sunday pattern of there being a 9.30am Eucharist at St Giles and a 11.00am Eucharist service at St Eata's that the following services and social meeting will continue via zoom, each week.



Each Sunday evening at 5.00pm Evening prayer will be said.  
On a Monday morning, Morning Prayer will be offered.  
Wednesday mornings there will be a coffee, chat and catch-up and then at 5.00pm each Wednesday there will be the opportunity to join in Evening Prayer.



**Weekly Envelopes and Standing Orders:** As I write this letter please can I also remind everyone about the Churches financial situation. You may give by weekly envelopes and it is important that as many as possible of the weekly envelopes are brought in before the end of March. That is the deadline for calculation of the tax rebate claim. Please either deliver to Tim at 3 Stonehouse Drive or bring them to the parish office on a Tuesday morning/Thursday afternoon or arrange to have them collected. You can also now bring them to Church when you attend! If you would like to pay by standing order then benefits of this are of great help to either church as it allows for regular income, it means that there is un-interruption to yourself and the church and the fees to the church are much lower. If anyone is thinking of setting up a standing order for regular donations to church, now is an excellent time to do it, ready for the start of the new financial year, ie. after April 5<sup>th</sup>. I have included a standing order form if you're receiving this by letter or please contact either Tim Abbott or Annie Home- Dodds.

As Lent continues and we all prepare to, once again, keep a very different Holy week this year I am delighted that we can begin this most sacred week by being in Church together. If you are able to join in the zoom services I look forward to sharing together in worship and I wish each and every one of us a Very happy, holy and blessed Easter.

With my Love and Prayers,  
Andrew  
Reverend Andrew Knight.

