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St Giles' Shrewsbury

July 2020

Dear Friends,

As the lock-down begins to ease, I write to you with regard to the opening of our Church for 'Public worship'. Please forgive the more formal approach of this letter. Guidelines have been issued for the safety of all and it is vitally important that these are adhered to.

As we continue through the present month of July the Church remains open on a Tuesday afternoon and Saturday morning for 'Private prayer' and on behalf of us all I express thank to those who have welcomed and acted as hosts.

The Diocese of Lichfield has asked that all churches, if at all possible, should re-open for 'Public worship' having abided by the Church of England guidelines in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result St Giles will start 'Public worship' from **Sunday 2nd August 2020**.

To enable this to happen in a safe, secure environment certain guidelines have to be met. Services will resume on a Sunday at 9.30am, Wednesday at 10.00am and for those who have been 'shielding' a service in the Fellowship room will be offered on a Monday at 10.00am. As a result of either having to leave the building to 'stand' for a period of 72 hours between each service or having to clean the church, I am sorry to inform you that at this present time there will be no 8.00am service on a Sunday. However, this will resume in due course.

St Giles can safely accommodate up to 30 households. A household may consist of 1 or more people. To enable a fair system to operate it has been decided to operate a 'booking system' for these services. I would ask you to phone the parish office (**01743 355300**) and either speak to Katherine on a Tuesday afternoon or Thursday morning or email your request to her at the Parish office: stgilesshrew@btconnect.com.

To book for the week commencing Sunday 2nd August please be aware that you will need to have booked by Thursday 23rd July. Katherine is on annual leave from 24th July and will return on Tuesday 4th August.

Please be aware that you will have to choose which day you wish to attend. Due to having to abide by 'safe distancing' we cannot allow more than the maximum number on either a Sunday or Wednesday and we are limited to 12 households on a Monday for those who have/are 'shielding'. Please inform Katherine which day you wish to be at the service.

On the back of this letter are the guidelines for those participants at Public Worship. I would ask that you read and familiarise yourself with these.

I appreciate that as we begin to start worshipping, once more, in Church, that there may be a degree of fear and anxiety yet I want to assure you that the guidelines, by which we are asked to abide, are for everyone's safety and well-being. Whilst Church will be different it will be good to be back in St Giles and worship together.

I look forward to welcoming you back and sharing in worship with you.

With my love and prayers,

Andrew

Reverend Andrew

Guidance for participants at PUBLIC WORSHIP during period of easing of Covid19 lockdown

1. Number of persons:

Number of persons permitted has been decided by the vicar and ministry team appropriate to the buildings at St Giles and St Eata's, Atcham.

2. A TRACK AND TRACE system will operate;

- Everyone in attendance will be required to provide their full name and contact details so that, in the event of a Covid19 case amongst those present, all attendees will be traced and notified by the authorities.
- **GDPR implications:** persons must be willing to provide their details and consent to their being retained by us for up to 31 days. (It is thought that Covid19 has a lengthy incubation period of about 21 days.)

3. Hand sanitizing: on arrival everyone will be required to use the hand-sanitizer provided.

4. Face coverings: the wearing of face masks is optional, personal choice.

5. Seating:

People will be directed to seats as appropriate.

- Those living in the same household can sit together in a pew.
- Different households and individuals must be socially distanced throughout the service.

6. No Physical contact:

- There can be no physical contact between the presiding priest and individuals receiving the communion bread;
- The bread only will be provided during communion services;
- Individuals are asked to hold up their cupped hands to allow the celebrant to place the wafer into them without contact.

7. Music and singing:

- There can be no singing during services;
- An organist may play before, during and afterwards.

8. The presiding vicar will wear PPE, a visor in particular. S/he will not wear vestments/robes, s/he will wear a dog-collar and stole.