



St Oswald Norbury

Return to church for Public Worship July 5th 2020

1st July 2020

Dear Friends

We are delighted that we will, God willing, be able to open St Oswald's for public worship on Sunday morning. For the time being this will be for the 10am Eucharist only, although we hope to be able to offer our other regular services before too long. This Sunday, and for the foreseeable future, we will continue to share this service with those worshipping from home via Blue Jeans.

There are a number of matters to bear in mind as you consider whether this will be the right time for you to return to worshipping in the church building, but before I go on to these, please note that if you intend to come this Sunday morning you should contact Judy Morris before 9am on Saturday morning by email j.a.m@blueyonder.co.uk or on 020 8764 4280 (leave a message with a contact number if she does not answer) This is important so that we know how many people we need to prepare for and so that we can plan the seating to ensure that everyone who comes to the service can be seated in the safest possible way. Please provide a contact email address or telephone number.

We do hope that, if you are able, you will come and join with us in church and in person on Sunday. You can be assured that we will be following the high expectations of safe meeting arrangements set by the Church of England. You can find out more about these on the C of E website <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

One of the measures that we will be following will be to increase ventilation by keeping the West and South doors of the church open – so you may need to make sure that you wear appropriate clothing!

We do, of course, need to ask those of you who will join us to do so responsibly. Most importantly, if you, or someone you live with has any symptoms of, or are known to be a confirmed case of Covid-19, or if you have been advised that you must shield you should not attend church. Although some of those shielding may now meet in small groups outside or within a support bubble, this does not include attending indoor worship.

What to expect

You will be welcomed, from a distance of 2m, asked to sanitise your hands, and invited to take a seat which may have been allocated to you. Your contact details will be checked as

we are obliged to keep these for 21 days in order to assist with the government track and trace process should this be necessary. A plate will be available for your collection, however we would prefer you to make your offering by contactless means if possible.

For the majority of the service the congregation will be seated. There will be no hymns as singing is not permitted, however, we are very pleased that there will be music before and after the service and during communion. At communion only the bread will be offered and you should follow the directions for receiving carefully.

Service sheets and booklets will be available to download for printing or to use from your phone / tablet on Saturday. If you can do this and bring your own materials along that will be helpful. There will, though, be some of the printed resources available in church, but you must take these home with you, ideally keeping the service booklet for future use.

At the end you will be asked to leave promptly – although we will not hurry you if you need a moment for personal prayer.

Entry to the church for everyone will be through the west (main door) and everyone should leave by the south (side chapel) door. No one, except for those preparing the church for worship, should enter by the north door from the carpark. It will be possible for you to gather, after the service, following the social distancing rules, in the grounds.

Families are, of course, very welcome but children must be carefully supervised by their parents.

There will be lots of guidance and instruction given during the service – all to help you keep yourselves, and everyone else, safe.

If you have any questions, please do get in touch with a member of the clergy and we will do our best to advise.

Finally, I know that some of our outstanding team of welcomers will not be able to come to church for a little while, and I would greatly welcome offers of help to take on this very important role over the next few weeks.

This will all feel a little bit daunting on our first return trip to church, but I've no doubt that we will adapt to this new way of being in church as we have done to worshipping online.

I do hope that I will see a good number of you on Sunday.

With love and prayers

Alison