

St Barnabas Church
St Barnabas Road
Emmer Green
Reading
RG4 8RA



Dear Church Member

In this time of changes, as we all try to come to terms with the Covid 19 pandemic and how we safely emerge from lock-down, I would like to keep you up-to-date with developments at St Barnabas.

On Tuesday evening, 4th August, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) held a meeting using Zoom, chaired by David Howell in the absence of Revd Derek Chandler who is on sick leave until the end of August. The aim of the meeting was to look at what we need to do in the coming weeks and months to help sustain church life at St Barnabas.

Personal Prayer in the Church

The first good news is that as from next Thursday, 13th August, the church will be open for personal prayer from 9am til 11am. To meet guidelines:

- there will be a restriction on numbers – initially limited to 12 at any one time
- individuals should bring their own face covering and wear it at all times in the church
- it will be necessary to use hand sanitizer on entry and exit from the church.
- a log of all attendees will be kept to enable “track and trace”
- individuals who exhibit any signs of infection eg raised temperature, cough should not attend
- individuals should follow the directions of stewards

Worship

The PCC agreed that it was not yet appropriate to open the church for worship, but in anticipation of the likelihood that the church could be opened sometime in the autumn, agreed to start preparatory work to develop risk assessments and ways of working to enable that to happen.

In the meantime, Mark Burton will continue to coordinate the delivery of virtual services, supported by John Volland and the Virtual Choir, along with members of the congregation reading the Bible

and providing Prayers, as well as being videoed Sharing the Peace. Our thanks go out to all those involved in delivering Christ's message to us in this time of trial.

Annual Church Meeting

The PCC agreed that the Annual Church Meeting should take place on the 22nd of September. The meeting will be by Zoom and will commence at 7.30pm. The Annual Report and Financial Reports were sent out in March by email but they will be circulated again to ensure all members have had a chance to read them. I have a number of hard copies for those who do not have an email account. Please let me know if you want a copy.

Many of us have grown used to Zoom gatherings with our families over the period of the Lock-down and you will realize that it will not be a simple matter to hold a Zoom meeting with such a potentially large number. So I would be grateful if you have questions about the reports or any other matters, if you could send them to me well before the meeting in order that they can be given due consideration. If the issue is not covered during the meeting, where appropriate, written answers, will be included in the minutes of the meeting. A Zoom link will be sent out close to 22nd September which you will be able to use to join the meeting.

The Annual Meeting is the time when we elect new Churchwardens and members of the PCC. We need your support. Have you considered becoming a member of the PCC? Is being a churchwarden a role you could undertake? Please give it prayerful consideration.

Church Hall

Good news, the Hall will be open from the 7th of September. Jon Barclay the Hall Manager has been working very hard to develop a risk assessment and procedures for the Hall so that it can be opened for use by all the many and varied community groups. The PCC, having considered the Risk Assessment produced for the Hall which meets Government and C of E guidance on the Covid 19 hazard and taking account of the recommended detailed control measures and working practices; agreed that the Hall can be opened for use as from Monday 7th September. This is great news for all those wishing to get back to exercise classes and other activities. There will obviously be limitations and some groups will wish to delay starting again until they have gained confidence. We should all consider our own personal circumstances and make sure we are happy and confident before embarking on new activities.

Roger Moore

PCC Secretary