

This time away has provided an opportunity to think about our finances. For example it has not been possible for most of you to make your weekly freewill offering. I know that many of you will have been putting the envelopes away week by week and that is greatly appreciated. However you might now consider making your gift through a standing order. I'm enclosing the necessary form if you would like to do that.

As you know I was due to leave the parish at the beginning of May. I put this on hold not wishing to put the parish into a vacancy at such a difficult time. Now that we are in a position to return to church, I have informed the Bishop and the Vestry that I will put that delayed departure into effect on 27 September. This will give us five Sundays being back together and provide an opportunity to become accustomed to the differences in worshipping together. Bishop designate George, who will be consecrated on Sunday 6 September, will be with us for my final Sunday.

It has been a strange and difficult time for all of us. But it has been a time too of new opportunities – virtual services for example! We hope to be able to continue to broadcast the morning service so those who aren't ready to return to church will still be able to participate.

We continue to pray for an end to this virus which has disrupted all aspects of life. We give thanks for all that we have discovered of God's faithfulness and presence during what has often been a very lonely time especially for those who live alone and those who had to shield. This verse of scripture was a great help and comfort to me, and I leave it with you, praying that you will experience its truth.

*May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace
as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit. Rom.15:13*

Warm greetings in Christ,
Revd. Bobbie.

St Aidan's Parish Church
Enabling people to find a Living Faith in a Loving God
by "Serving Christ in the Community"



Dear Church Family,
Here is the news we have all been waiting for! We return to 'in church' worship on Sunday 30 August – St Aidan's Day!

As you will be aware, the legislation due to Covid 19 means that things in church will be different from what we are used to. We will all have to comply with the Covid 19 policy which has been set down by the church authorities. The aim is to help everyone stay safe and to minimise the spread of the virus. I have set out the relevant points which will help prepare you as you return to a familiar and much loved setting with a very different way of being there.

I suppose the greatest challenge will be seeing each other after a long absence without the opportunity to interact with one another in the usual way. We will all have to get used to the impact of social distancing – you will be seated as you arrive, appropriately distanced from your neighbour. Please read through the instructions carefully and just be prepared to enjoy a different experience of gathering for worship. *(continued on back page)*

RETURN TO CHURCH GUIDELINES

- You will be met by a steward as you enter the Church and asked to sanitize your hands. You will be given a service sheet which you should take home with you.
- Your FWO can be placed in the baskets at the door as you enter.
- You will be directed to a seat. This will most likely not be your usual seat, but the one allocated to allow for 2 metres social distance. Families and those who are in a 'bubble' will be able to sit together. If you have a cushion in church it can be collected from the back as you enter. You will then need to take it home and bring it each week.
- The church authorities have now recommended the wearing of face masks in church.
- During the service you are asked to remain in your seat. If anyone wishes to use the toilet, please use cleaning materials supplied before you leave.
- Until the advice changes, there will be no congregational singing so no choir for the time being.
- Holy Communion will be bread only distributed from the chancel steps. You will be directed to approach and return to maintain social distancing.
- A photograph of the congregation will be taken to comply with contact tracing.
- At the end of the service, leave as directed by the stewards.
- There will be no refreshments after the service. If the weather allows, do chat for a few moments outside the church grounds to catch up - but keep socially distanced.
- If you are feeling unwell or have any Covid 19 symptoms you are asked to stay at home.

It is not necessary to deep clean the church provided there are 72 hours between services. Accordingly access to the church is limited to Wednesdays and Sundays.

These guidelines will be updated as necessary to comply with current legislation.

Reverend Bobbie Moore

Telephone: home: 028 9268 2789 mobile: 07746 583470

bobbimoore1@gmail.com

Canon Ken McReynolds

Telephone: Mobile: 07922 358091 kenmcreynolds@hotmail.com

www.staidan.connor.anglican.org

www.facebook.com/staidansandyrow
