

1st July 2020

Dear Friends

This letter is about reopening the church for personal prayer in July. As things ease the situation will change so this letter is about what is happening in July.

On Sunday 5th we will be opening the church for an hour from... to for individual personal prayer which is what the Government has said we can do.

Everyone is welcome.

I'm sure you are looking forward to seeing other people at New North Road as we seek to gather in prayer. The deacons recognise that this will be the right time for some people to return to church but that it is not the right time for everyone and we will continue to offer other ways of connecting including the printed order of worship, pastoral letter, what's app group and you tube video.

We want everyone to be confident that the church is a safe environment and that we have reduced the risks to the minimum. The deacons have completed a detailed risk assessment and we all have a part to play in this. We all need to be mindful of our own vulnerability and the risk of passing on the virus too. So, all are welcome but if you are not well or you or another member of your household have symptoms of the virus then please do stay at home.

When you arrive, you will be welcomed by one of the stewards. You will be invited to use hand sanitiser before you enter the Sanctuary or the Hall.

We will also

Seating is available in the Sanctuary and the Hall with the partitions folded back so you can see all the way through. The seats are carefully distanced from one another. If you come with other people from your home or your 'bubble' then we can do small rearrangements so that you can sit together.

Please do not touch anyone else while you are at the church and avoid touching anything you don't need to.

The toilets will be open but only one person will be allowed in the toilet at a time, unless you are with a child or need assistance.

We are looking to July to be trial that will help us learn what is and isn't helpful so please be patient and do give the deacons your feedback.

Sadly, some things will not be happening in July. We will not be able to sing together but if you are someone who likes to sing and were willing to record a song for us, we can and would love to play that. Neither will we be serving tea or coffee.

It will be great to see each-other but during July we want to encourage you to have conversations with friends outside when you leave the building. We hope the sun will be shining!

I hope this is all clear. You are really welcome to call me or speak to you deacon if you have any questions, suggestions or ideas about this.

If we are given permission we anticipate that the church will open for a short act of worship on Sunday morning and in September we hope for a back to church Sunday when more full bodied services and activities for children can begin.

I am still available for distanced visiting in your garden or doorstep when I can come with my own flask and folding chair. My email is rmijanes@aol.com and my mobile number is 07852 490034

God bless you

Your friend and pastor

Mark

