

July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Friends

I wanted to express my thanks to Ernie and Mary for preparing the order of service last week and to Jane Day for writing the pastoral letter.

This week's letter is a short letter because over the last month, the deacons together with a small group of volunteers have put a very great deal of work into reopening the church building.

With this letter you will find attached our guidelines for coming to the church building for silent, personal prayer. I commend these to you. We have followed the advice from the Baptist Union and the government very carefully and prepared a detailed risk assessment. If you would like to see a copy, please do ask.

The church will be open for prayer from ten until eleven on Sunday morning and the zoom gathering will continue to take place from 11.45 until 12.30 a.m.

Some people will be very eager to return while others will be more cautious so we want you to be informed but encourage you not to come until you are confident and at peace in your own mind about this. I shall be continuing to send an order of worship and a reflection that you can follow together with a pastoral letter each week.

If you are following the news you will be aware that the advice from the government can change quite suddenly and with very little notice which has made our task more challenging. Please remember the deacon's in your prayers as they make plans.

We are hoping that on a Sunday in August, still to be determined, that we can begin to share in a short service of worship beginning at the traditional time of 10.30. There are many other things we would like to begin doing including the Sunday groups for children and young people. The deacons are very mindful of this and are grateful for all the feedback and ideas we have received. We have not been able to do or agree to all the things that have been suggested to us, but I do want to say thank you for them.

If you have any questions or concerns or if you would like to clarify anything in the guidelines, please call or email me or your responsible deacon.

God bless.

Your friend and pastor.

Mark