

# CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

## REPORT CORONAVIRUS GENERAL INFORMATION

**1st October 2020**

### **TIMELINE:**

#### **March 15th:**

Last services held in church.

#### **March 20th:**

Special guidance was issued with regard to weddings, the reading of Banns, Funerals and Baptisms. The deadline for parishes to hold their annual meetings extended to the end of October 2020.

#### **March 17th:**

All public worship was suspended with no further Church services or other midweek meetings until further notice.

#### **March 22nd:**

Weekly Worship Details incl the Rector's reflection sent out to those on the E-News data base and information uploaded to the website. Printed copies sent to the few not on e-mail. Details posted on the notice board.

All activities in the church and Lent Course suspended.

Also:

- Keep the church open during normal hours, daily 10.00am – 4.00pm
- Continue with The Prayer Chain
- Keep the Food Box in the church porch
- Offer assistance to those who need it (alongside the village WhatsApp support group)
- Plant Fayre cancelled.

#### **March 23rd:**

Following the announcement by the Prime Minister on Monday evening, 23rd March all church buildings had to remain closed. There could be no public worship, private prayer or any other meetings or activities in churches until further notice.

#### **April 18th:**

The Rector's sabbatical postponed.

#### **June 13th:**

Places of worship allowed to reopen for funerals and individual private prayer.

#### **June 21st:**

Church reopened from Sunday, 21st June for socially-distanced private prayer on:-  
Sundays:- 10.00am – 2.00pm & Wednesdays:- 2.00pm – 5.00pm

A full Risk Assessment was carried out in accordance with the guidelines. Hand sanitizer available at the entrance, guidance provided on the blue notice board. Much of the church was cordoned off and all bibles, books etc were removed. Advised to take your own bible or other reading matter with you. Chairs were placed near the altar for people who wished to sit and say a prayer.

**June 23rd:**

The Prime Minister announced on Monday 23rd June that places of worship may re-open from 4th July, providing certain conditions are met and government guidance is followed. The government also gave permission for weddings to resume from the same date.

**June 28th:**

The first week that the Rector's weekly reflection and prayer was recorded and made available on You Tube. Also, a recording of a story each week from the Storyteller Bible. The links are sent out each week to the E-News group and also put on the website and sent to BB, LB and SH for uploading to their Facebook pages.

**July 5th:**

The first virtual service of Evensong was held thanks to Jerry Breslin who set this up via Zoom. Choir practices had been held weekly via Zoom.

**August 2nd:**

Live services resumed with one service at one of the churches at 11.00am. Although there cannot be any singing, the organ is played at various points. The occasional virtual services would continue to cater for those who do not yet feel able to venture out to church and information about the weekly virtual worship opportunities would continue to be circulated.

**August 9th:**

The first service was held in GB. In advance of that another Risk Assessment was completed. Hand sanitizing is required on entry to the church and seating has to be in accordance with social distancing rules. Masks are a mandatory requirement and contact details of all those attending have to be kept for 21 days.

**September:**

The limited number of services across the Benefice to continue for the next two months to include Harvest Service at each of the four parishes. The occasional virtual services to continue and also the sharing of information about the weekly virtual worship opportunities and weekly recordings. The Holy Communion service at Bow Brickhill was filmed on 13th September.