

Rector's Rambles

June 2020

You will be aware that the government announced that places of worship could now open for private prayer. Following a discussion with the PCC I can now tell you that Holy Trinity will open twice a week from Wednesday 17th June—on Sunday and Wednesday mornings between 9.00 am and 10.00 am - for individuals to come in and pray quietly. We do not have any further information yet as to when we can begin worship services in church or conduct weddings or baptisms.

If you come along for prayer please could you ensure that you use the provided hand sanitiser when you come in and when you leave. To ensure adequate social distances some of the pews will be roped off and the remaining pews will be limited to two individuals or one household. Please only use this opportunity if you are not shielded or regarded as vulnerable.

The other lockdown worship opportunities remain in place:

- Weekly sermon posted on the Church Website: www.holytrinitystwulstan.org.uk; on the new Church Facebook page: @Holy Trinity Heworth as well as the Trinity Praise Facebook page.
- The Church website also has worship material for adults and children.
- Zoom service and fellowship every Sunday at 10.30 am. If you would like to join but currently don't get an invite, please let me know.

My Future

Early in the year, before the appointment of Sue Sheriff to St. Wulstan's, (and before Covid-19) I had a discussion with Archdeacon Sam when I talked about a dilemma I was facing. With progressing years I had started planning forward to retirement and had calculated that the earliest I could afford to retire would be just before my 67th birthday. (2 years from last February) However, Holy Trinity stands at the threshold of new opportunities following the formation of the St. Wulstan's Conventional District and, much as I would look forward to leading the church through this change, I recognise that this would be an ideal time for me to hand over the reins to someone who would direct the Parish with a new vision. The two sides of the dilemma seemed irreconcilable. However, such is the way that God's timing works— when there is no human way forward, he intervenes. The Church Commissioners had just introduced a scheme of voluntary redundancy for clergy willing to vacate their posts and leave ministry. The package (which has to be taken in 2020) meant retirement this year became a possibility. Hard as it is to contemplate leaving the church family here, I believe that God was directing that this is the right time to retire.

Then the lockdown hit, with all the limitations for services and especially for funerals. I have decided that it is still right to accept the package but to see the church through the worst of the lockdown and delay until after the memorial Service in November. My final Sunday in the Parish will therefore be Nov 15th.

With love and prayers
Michael Woodmansey