



Church Street
Ashbourne
Derbyshire
DE6 1AE

5th November, 2020

To: members and friends of Ashbourne Methodist Church
and for information to friends in our Circuit Chapels

Dear friends,

Ashbourne Methodist Church

As we enter another period of lockdown I'm writing on behalf of the Leadership Team to share some news and plans for the future.

Reopening of Church Building

Thank you for completing the survey on preferences with regard to reopening the church building for worship. Saturday morning "live" worship and Sunday morning "recorded" worship were highlighted as preferences. So with the agreement of the Church Council we were moving towards re-opening the church building this coming weekend. The new lockdown restrictions have obviously put paid to this. However, provided restrictions are lifted in early December, we now have in place a Risk Assessment for worship and made the sanctuary Covid-compliant, which means we could reopen on Sunday, 6th December at 10.30am, all being well. This would be to enable people to join the pre-recorded service (the same one people are encouraged to watch at home through the Church website/Facebook, which is also reproduced on the paper version). Various protocols will need to be followed, for example the wearing of face coverings, social distancing and a booking system. If you are able to worship at home, we encourage you to continue to do that.

We then plan to begin an additional Saturday morning "live" quiet and contemplative service for around 30 minutes led by one of our preachers in the new year. More details to follow.

As we head into another lockdown, I'd like to encourage everyone to continue to keep in contact with one another. A quick chat on the phone can help you and the person you ring, and we also have chances to get together in bigger groups on Zoom. Our weekly coffee morning is on Saturdays from 10.30am to 11.30am, Craft & Chat have a short catch-up every Monday and many of our housegroups are also meeting on Zoom. There's also a prayer time at 9.30am on Thursdays. The details are in the weekly notice sheet. If you're nervous about using Zoom, we have some people who can help you take your first steps. Please speak to Clare Sales, John Hurfurt, or Stuart Green. They have helped lots of people get onto Zoom and are very happy to help you - if necessary, more than once!

Minister: Rev Tim Morris The Manse 16 Booth Drive Ashbourne Derbyshire DE6 1SZ
Tel: 01335 342 408 Email: tim.morris@methodist.org.uk
www.ashbournemethodist.org.uk

Our weekly worship on Facebook, via our website, is still going strong and it has been really encouraging to know that the Worship at Home sheet, which follows fairly accurately the service we have filmed, is helping those not on the internet to feel very much a part of our collective worship. Delivering them out each week (most by hand), I know how much they are appreciated. Two households have the service delivered on DVD - please let us know if that would be useful to yourself. Our monthly Zoom services and Songs of Praise sheet are also very welcome. Thank you again to all those who spend many hours putting the online and paper versions of services together.

The 53 "prayer squares" made as part of our Beside Still Waters 'virtual quiet day' is being made into a banner, and photos and stories are being collated into a book - out for Christmas! Displays of the photos are also on a display in church and The Cornerstone. We've recently had another "Take Away Church" in pizza boxes and bags, for young people and those more mature in years. Together with Mustard, 10to10 and kids@cornerstone, there's certainly a great deal going on.

Thank you to our Pastoral Visitors who are keeping in contact with members and friends. It's a joy to belong to a caring, supportive and responsive church, particularly during these days.

The Church remains open from 10am-5pm on a Tuesday and Saturday for individuals to come and use to find a moment of peace and quiet, to pray and give thanks. This has been appreciated by those who have come. Thank you to those who open up, do the lunch-time check and close up. Our Brailsford Church is open Tuesday's from 9.30am-11.30am, Milldale and Tissington are open all the time.

Advent and Christmas

As we look ahead, we are making plans for various alternatives to our usual services and activities for the Christmas season. This includes:

- a "drive in Carol Service"
- Zoom All-age Nativity
- Zoom Carol Service, also a Zoom Carol Service for Brailsford
- Facebook Carols by Candlelight from Milldale
- Facebook Christmas Day celebration, followed by a Zoom get-together

If you have any other suggestions, or comments as to how we can celebrate Christmas this year, please let us know.

Family Outreach Worker

As you know we have had to make our lay worker redundant from the end of November. Jane is happy with the situation and concurs with the decision. At an appropriate time we hope to have a suitable farewell for her.

So friends, as we enter another time of lockdown in these strange times - keep well, look after one another and those you love and be assured that our kind, generous and outward looking church is still as active and energetic as ever.

If you have any pastoral concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me, Wendy Haslam, or your pastoral visitor.

God bless you and keep you, til we meet again

Your minister and friend,



on behalf of Ashbourne Church Leadership Team
Tim Morris (Rev) Superintendent Minister

