

Following the Government announcement on 25th June that Churches can begin public worship from 4th July, we are looking forward to reopening Cudham Church for Sunday worship. As we resume, things will be different, and we want to plan for a return in the smoothest way we can within guidelines from the Government and Church of England. When we are back, I cannot tell you yet exactly what it will look like, but there are important values that will inform our thinking.

First, the church has never actually been closed. We've been doing more ministry and reaching more people than ever before, one example of this are the numbers worshipping during our online services and Youtube school assemblies too. I've no doubt these will continue, as it has meant that several people in the community who are unable to come along to church have been blessed by God. Thank you to all in the church and community who have supported each other in prayer and practical ways.

Second, we want to resume services only when we can do so to protect the vulnerable as best we can. Any of you who call Cudham Church your spiritual home or have ever attended one of our services, will know that the building isn't conducive to social distancing. Whether it's two or one plus metres, this still effectively limits numbers able to attend - around 30 people at best, and there are concerns too around the extra cleaning that might need to take place.

Third, regardless of how and when we resume services in church, we want to come back together in a spirit of grace and unity. As we take steps to restart church services inside our historic church building it will be tempting to critique the timing or the guidelines. I certainly can't promise that we will proceed perfectly, but I can promise that we will do so prayerfully. I ask now for your patience and grace along the way. We are committed to keeping Jesus at the centre of all we say and do. He calls us to be one body, under one Lord, expressing one hope in the one true gospel. Let's make sure our world keeps hearing that message as we strive to navigate these complicated days together.

Bearing all this in mind, we need your help – we've put together a questionnaire and a letter about financial challenges that Covid19 has presented to the church. – if you'd like a copy of either or both, please contact Parish Administrator Barbara at admin@pcd.org.uk

As lockdown eases, you remain in my prayers. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can help in any practical or pastoral way - vicar@pcd.org.uk tel 01959540012. Rev John Musson