

Letter from the Vicar of All Saints' Ockbrook with St Stephen's Borrowash:

Dear church family member, Firstly, I do hope you are keeping well and safe. We are still experiencing an unprecedented time in our lives. Some of us are feeling fearful and anxious. Some are finding it difficult to adjust from lockdown to going out. Some are desperate for answers, to engage others in conversation, to find and create a way forward. Many of us are wondering where we can discern God in what we have faced and what God might be saying to us. As we are all so different, so each of our responses is legitimate and personal. As a church family we reflect the variety of responses nationally.

Holy Saturday: I recently read a book called '*Between Cross and Resurrection: A Theology of Holy Saturday*'. Holy Saturday gets lost in the dark shadow of Good Friday and the bright light of Easter Day. But it is a significant time with a significant theology attached. On that day Jesus was locked away on his own, still, silent, dead. It was a time when activity ceased. It was a time of sadness, anxiety and uncertainty for the disciples. But that day was a crucial bridge between how life had been, and how life would emerge and become.

This is significant for us just now. Perhaps in some sense we are in a 'Holy Saturday'. It feels like many of the things we held dear have been stripped away. We are hopeful of resurrection, but don't know how or when that may come. So, for now, although it is frustrating, we are called to 'be', to 'be still', to 'pray', to 'wait', to 'let go and let God'. This is certainly what I am discerning and lay this before you for prayerful reflection. In many ways it is deeply counterintuitive when we feel it is time for action. But perhaps, like the disciples on Holy Saturday, we must keep waiting longer for God's timing.

Public worship: This bishop tasked me and the church wardens to meet to pray and discern how and when we should open our church buildings for public worship, given the continuing restrictions. This proved to be a longer and more difficult process than we had imagined. Please see below what we have decided in the short term, noting that things are still fluid and may have to change.

July 2020

Wed 15 th	10.30am-12.30pm	St Stephen's	Quiet Prayer
Sun 19 th	10.00am	All Saints'	Said Holy Communion
Wed 22 nd	4.30pm-6.30pm	All Saints'	Quiet Prayer
Wed 29 th	10.30am-12.30pm	St Stephen's	Quiet Prayer

August 2020

Wed 2 nd	4.30pm-6.30pm	All Saints'	Quiet Prayer
Wed 9 th	10.30am-12.30pm	St Stephen's	Quiet Prayer
Wed 16 th	4.30pm-6.30pm	All Saints'	Quiet Prayer
Wed 23 rd	10.30am-12.30pm	St Stephen's'	Quiet Prayer
Wed 30 th	4.30pm-6.30pm	All Saints'	Quiet Prayer

September 2020

Wed	2 nd	10.00am	St Stephen's	Said Holy Communion
Sun	6 th	10.00am	All Saints'	Said Holy Communion
Wed	9 th	10.00am	St Stephen's	Said Holy Communion
Sun	13 th	10.00am	All Saints'	Said Holy Communion
Wed	16 th	10.00am	St Stephen's	Said Holy Communion
Sun	20 th	10.00am	All Saints'	Said Holy Communion
Wed	23 rd	10.00am	St Stephen's	Said Holy Communion
Sun	27 th	10.00am	All Saints'	Said Holy Communion
Wed	30 th	10.00am	St Stephen's	Said Holy Communion

Please note the following important protocol information:

1. We will work tirelessly to ensure we have mitigated risk of infection as much as we can. To that end we will be operating strictly within the guidelines received from the bishop of Derby.
2. If you have any Covid-19 like symptoms, please do not put others at risk.
3. Please wear face masks and gloves if you wish.
4. On entering the church buildings, you must sanitize your hands (either with sanitizer supplied or with your own).
5. You will be asked for your name, address + post code and phone number in case you need to be 'track & traced'.
6. You will be directed to a pew by a warden, deputy warden or sides person.
7. There can be no singing.
8. Holy Communion will be in one kind. Only the priest will take the wine. We will be using wafers for the foreseeable future.
9. There can be no sharing of the 'peace'.
10. We cannot pass the offertory plate around, so it will be by the entrance to church, please place envelopes and cash in it on arrival.
11. There can be no refreshments or congregational groups chatting within the building before or after the services.
12. Once outside please maintain physical distance from others.
13. We are hoping to have a weekly 'kids' slot' in All Saints', but the services will not be 4ALL and currently we cannot have children's' groups. This may change prior to September.
14. We have decided to use All Saints' for the 'joint' Sunday services as the space is able to hold more people within the physical distancing guidelines.

Conclusion: Please be assured that we will do all we can to reduce risk of infection. I recognize that many will still be self-isolating and therefore not able to come initially. To that end it is our aspiration to continue streaming the 'church without walls' services at 10am each Sunday morning. This will only be possible though if there are the personnel to both pre-record for the streaming service and come to the church building to repeat the sermon and prayers etc. We will keep you all updated on this.

I (Tim) usually produce each year a full autumn Rota (September to December inclusive) and send these out in July. Due to the fluidity and uncertainty of the current situation, I have decided to plan the rotas just one month in advance. All those involved in the service will therefore receive a Rota early in the preceding month IE early August for the September Rota.

Sun July 19th If you are intending to attend this service and have access to the internet, please register using the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/said-holy-communion-service-tickets-112992904820>

Please note that if you are coming with others from your household, you need to register everyone in the group I.E. if a family of four are coming, the person who places the order needs to request 4 tickets. And please bring your ticket(s) with you to the service.

If you do not have internet access, Moira should be able to get you a manual ticket through the event site; please contact her on: 07810 532982

It is our intention, following the Sun July 19th service to organize a survey so those who came can comment on how it was, and what you want and expect from future services.

Thank you for your attention to this information, and your ongoing prayers for the church family.

With love in Christ

Tim

Tim Sumpter
Vicar of Ockbrook with Borrowash
(and on behalf of Mike and Anne-church wardens).