

Distant but United

St Martin's Parish Church



Fifth Sunday After Trinity, 12th July

It was wonderful - truly wonderful - to see some of you in Church last Sunday. As I have said before, *there is no rush*, and everyone must be encouraged to make their own sensible decision about when they feel able to return. It will be a good while yet before we feel safe enough to return to the 'new normal'.

And be assured, the church will be waiting patiently and will welcome you with open arms when the time is right *for you*.

That is why we, as a church, will not be rushing back to 'normality' either. The pattern of one simple Sunday morning service at 9.30 will remain in place for the rest of July and August. The Church Council and I will be meeting later in July and will discuss a plan for September onwards, when other services and mid-week groups may begin to re-emerge.

I think this is the right thing to do. The Summer months offer us a chance to relax and take things gently, and after the chaos of the last few months I think that's exactly what we need.

In areas of the world devastated by natural disasters the agencies responsible for relief work often say that the period of rebuilding requires as much care and energy as the initial period of rescue. We can learn a lot from that.

I want to allow these summer months to be a time of careful prayer and reflection on the right way forward; without rushing, but with plenty of patience and love.

Rev Jonny

Sunday Worship – 19th July



We will continue our pattern of one simple service of Holy Communion each Sunday at 9.30am for the foreseeable future. If you would like to attend the service on the 19th July, then it is essential that you book a place online, or by ringing the Rector if you do not have access to the internet:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-martins-930-communion-tickets-112421728416>

We now feel able to safely accommodate 40 worshippers. When you book a place, you need to book as many 'tickets' as there are people in your group.

It will be a spoken service, and the Eucharist will be offered in bread alone.

Gift Day 2020

The Church Council have decided that it would not be appropriate to send our usual letter to the whole Parish asking for donations this year.

The full impact of the pandemic on people's finances remains unclear, and we do not want to add to anyone's burden at this time.

If you would like to make an individual donation, above and beyond your usual giving, then we will gladly receive it and put it to good use for the mission of the Church.

We continue to encourage those who give regularly to the collection plate to consider moving to a form of planned giving, and Thelma can support anyone who would like help to do that.



Guidelines for Private Prayer

- The Church is open daily from 9am to 4pm
- If you are in a vulnerable group, seek medical advice before coming to church
- Fill in an attendance card when entering
- Use hand sanitizer provided on entry
- Follow the signage to available spaces
- Remain physically distanced from others
- Candles may be lit, using disposable tapers
- Respect the stillness and quiet by taking conversations outside.



To speak to Rev Jonny, please ring: 07797 939692 or email: smartinsrector@gmail.com