

# WEDNESDAY SUPPLEMENT

30<sup>th</sup> June 2020

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Welcome to this week's Wednesday Supplement.

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## THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday, public worship recommences, subject to the requirements of social distancing. We are each likely to have complex feelings about this in various measures: joy and celebration, I hope, but also perhaps sadness about the events of the past few months and those we have lost – as well as concern for our own safety, and that of our households, families and friends.

At the outset therefore it is important to say that no-one should feel under any pressure to attend public worship. Additional provision will be made for those who are staying at home. If you do attend worship, please take care for your own safety and that of others.

Please read carefully the guidance under 'hygiene and distancing' below, before coming to church. Apologies for the rather 'instructional' supplement. There is an article from Josh too!

### Services

I think there is great merit in resuming the pattern of worship which applied before the lockdown, with all the opportunities it brings to use different buildings and follow different styles of worship. There is especial merit at present in reducing the numbers in any given service and having services in different locations will help us in distancing and reducing surface transmission.

The pattern of services this coming Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> July, which is the First Sunday of the Month, will therefore be as follows:

8am Holy Communion, Broughton

9.30am Holy Communion, Kirkby

11am All-Age Service, Broughton

6pm Common Worship Evening Prayer, Ulpha

Changes will be made to the content of the services, where distancing and hygiene make the usual format impossible.

When you meet friends in other parishes, please be sensitive to the fact that many have not felt able to open

yet, or to conduct all of their usual services. Reopening is a matter for individual parishes and depends upon many factors.

## HYGIENE AND DISTANCING

In order to make church a safe place for everyone who wishes to come, it is essential that we follow the now familiar requirements of hygiene and social distancing.

Please note these simple steps, which apply to all services:

- Do not attend if you feel unwell
- Keep 2m apart at all times
- Sanitise your hands upon entering
- Pick up a service booklet for yourself
- Go straight to a pew. Do not socialise indoors
- Do not touch your own face
- Do not touch any surfaces
- Catch coughs and sneezes in a tissue or elbow
- At the end of the service please leave your seat and exit directly, replacing your own service book. Do not socialise indoors

The following changes must regrettably be made in all services:

- No singing or use of wind instruments
- No refreshments may be served
- Sidespeople must not hand out materials
- No physical exchange of greetings or peace
- The collection plate cannot be passed. Please leave your donation in the plate as you enter or leave.

For communion services:

- Only the bread will be distributed. This is a full and complete communion.
- Distribution will occur standing, not at the rail
- Please queue 2m apart
- Hold out your hands or bow your head to receive communion or a blessing
- Please circulate in a traditional one-way system where possible, to avoid passing others in aisles as you return to your seat
- The bread will be covered during consecration

- The minister will use additional hygiene measures

Broughton's *Follow Me* service will be most profoundly affected by these changes, because it normally involves a great deal of interaction, proximity and handling materials. A simple all-age service will be substituted.

Services in which hymns and songs feature will also feel different (and will be shorter). Evensong will be substituted for other evening services.

Procedure at communion services will be slightly different, but the sacramental is not significantly affected.

Churches have permission to reopen only for worship, not for social purposes. Please greet each other outside, observing social distancing.

## OTHER 'SERVICES'

### Video services

We will continue to have communion services available via the YouTube channel. This week, we plan to trial recording a full service in church (Kirkby, 9.30) and will upload it later on Sunday. The provision may be different in subsequent weeks, which will add variety.

### Sunday Supplement

The *Sunday Supplement* will continue to be published with readings, notices and sermon, available in print at church and by email. We will continue to make printed copies available to those at home who are not online.

### Wednesday Supplement

The Wednesday Supplement has perhaps been the largest time commitment, so I regret to say that it must be discontinued in order to make time for the resumption of public worship and other activities. I should like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed articles and materials, including Josh, Chris, Meg, Hannah, Charlie and Charlotte. Thank you also to the enormous number of correspondents who wrote in with thanks, or to contribute to the debate in which the articles sought to engage. It has been a valuable opportunity to think more widely about numerous aspects of faith and its role in the world.

### Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer will now be available only from *ACHurchNearYou*. Please bookmark the following link if you would like to access this service, which is available by 9am every day except Monday:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4742/page/5145/view/>

I have discontinued the YouTube edition, because it is duplicative and takes much longer to prepare.

## DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD

In Sunday's sermon, Stephen spoke about our prophetic calling to stand against evil in the world. Today I further explore this task through the words of St John the Evangelist:

*Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world.*

(1 John 2:15–16)

John is warning that if we want to love God, we must shed our love for the world; there is not room to love both. John defines 'the world' not as Planet Earth or people, but the realm of sin: greed, lust and pride.

For example, my goal in writing this article is to make a path to Christ. However, it can be tempting to make a path to myself instead, seeking people's praise. If this desire for status takes over my writing, then the love of the Father is not present in it, and I fail to write for God.

How can we forsake love of the world? I suggest we can learn from the monastic movement.

When Emperor Constantine in about 313 CE declared Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire, Christians stopped being persecuted for their faith. This resulted in a new challenge: being faithful to Christ amid worldly comfort, which often compromised Christians' conviction. Monasticism began in response to this challenge. Many Christians left their prestigious positions and journeyed into solitude, like Christ fasting in the wilderness, to struggle against the evil within. They became martyrs of a different kind—not crucified by the empire, but by voluntarily taking up their crosses through poverty, prayer and fasting.

Thus, the monastics attempted to forsake love of the world by single-mindedly pursuing God (the word 'monk' comes from the Greek word *monos*, meaning 'single'). They often did this together, forming communities to worship God, work and offer hospitality to people in need as a new kind of family.

The closest I came to becoming a monk was living and working at the Iona Abbey for a few years—although of course, it was far from the sacrifice required of true

monastics. Most staff members work there for up to three years so that they may bring their experience of work, worship and hospitality from that holy island wherever they go afterwards.

Most of us are not called to be monks, but we can learn from the Iona Abbey's vision of living monastically wherever we are, shunning evil to receive the life of Christ.

How might our homes become little abbeys of prayer and hospitality?

How might our local churches become communities of ordinary people battling against the temptations of wealth, position and status so that the love of the Father might inhabit us, overflowing into the wider community and world?



*Iona Abbey, Isle of Iona, Scotland: built upon the heritage of prayer and service established by St Columba's monastic community and the Benedictine monks that followed.*

## A PRAYER FOR OUR RETURN TO PUBLIC WORSHIP

Lord God, our Heavenly Father,  
we ask you to bless our return to public worship.  
We pray that we may do so not only on our own behalf,  
but on behalf of all those who are at home and cannot join us.  
May we each come to know you better,  
as full and true members of the Body of Christ,  
whether we are at home or in church, alone or with others.  
We thank you that you are ever near, even if we cannot tell.  
Keep us safe, and steadfast in the things we must do to protect others.  
Help us in these times of trial to love one another as you have loved us.

In Jesus' Name we pray.  
**Amen.**