

The Rambling Rector

Definition: *A White Flowering Climbing Rose Or A Vicar With No Sermon Script!*

When Can Church Open For Worship?

Latest Update

Since lock down began I have been monitoring all the changes relating to church on a daily basis. This has been in three ways; the Church of England COVID-19 website (see below), regular 'ad clerums' from the Bishops and the Governments website (see below) However, there have been U-turns, conflicting information, and very poor communication during this time. Leaving all concerned somewhat frustrated and confused. I therefore outline what IS happening and what we KNOW rather than offer any speculation.

Church of England COVID-19: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

Government: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic>.

OPENING CHURCH FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Auckley and Finningley PCC's prayerfully considered the new option to open our buildings for private prayer. Noting, that at this time it is still not permitted for prayers to be led, to provide books and/or resources, and no pastoral conversations are permitted - both PCC's decided to keep both our church buildings **closed** for the time being. This will be monitored on a regular basis.

FUNERALS

From Monday 15th June **funerals may once again be held inside church buildings**, which will be of great comfort to many. However, because there are stringent limits on what is allowed, these funeral services will not be a return to the church funerals we are accustomed to. For example; there will be no hymn singing and social distancing between households will be necessary at all times, and hand sanitising is required on entering and leaving the church building. Perhaps the biggest difference is that we are only allowed to have the same numbers present in the church for a funeral as they do at Rose Hill Crematorium, where currently 15 mourners are permitted.

WEDDINGS

Despite the Government stating originally that small weddings would be permitted from the 1st of June, there has been a very silent U-turn on this. So far, we have no indication at all of when this might change, or indeed what the government classify as 'small'. So for now, **no weddings**

THIS WEEK



**Rambling Rector
Over a 100**



U-Turns



**Rectory
Revelation**

Love Divine with a
twist...well square
dance

BAPTISMS

We have no update from the Government as to when Baptisms may take place, although we do have comprehensive instructions from the Church of England about how to go about them once they are permitted. So again, for now, **no baptisms**.

HOLY COMMUNION

We might consider this 'returning to normal', and this moment will be of great joy for all of us. However, the guidance set in place will actually mean a 'new normal' as there will be significant changes to what we had before. For example; no singing, social distancing, no sharing the peace, bread only at communion, and even the recommendation of visors and face masks.

WHO IS MAKING THE DECISIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

One source of immense frustration is that the media are being told what is happening in the church, before the church leaders are. In fact, information is being transmitted on Twitter, before anything is on the Church of England website. Another, is that dates are being revised on the hoof, and directions and instructions are also being revised, sometimes only a day after being issued.

This concern has been raised at the highest level in the church as it is frustrating for everyone. However, it's the government that are making all the decisions and deciding when to publish them, like for example 10.30pm on a Saturday evening! We do have a voice, and the Bishops Council and Archbishop are lobbying the government, as well as working with them on trying to safely move things forward. But whist they can advise, it is the politicians who who make the decisions.

SUMMARY

So for now we will continue with our weekly Zoom Service and edition of the Rambling Rector, as well as continuing to monitor and review the situation.

We will not be opening our buildings for private prayer, but they will be open for funerals, albeit with limitations. As yet we have no commencement date for weddings, baptisms, and Holy Communion, but we do have the first draft instructions of what we will have to do to facilitate these church services. If you want to know what the detailed directives are, and what we will need to do, then they can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions section of the Church of England COVID-19 web pages...but they may change!

Once we have clear instructions on dates, we will carry out the necessary risk assessments, and put in place what is required. Sadly, until then, it is a constantly shifting situation. However, whilst it is frustrating, we must ensure that when the decision to 're-open' is made, that it is the right time, with minimal risk to all.

If you have any questions then do please ask and I will do my best to answer.

God bless



PRAYER FOR TODAY

God of truth,
help us to keep your law of love
and to walk in ways of wisdom,
that we may find true life
in Jesus Christ your Son. **Amen.**



Bible Readings

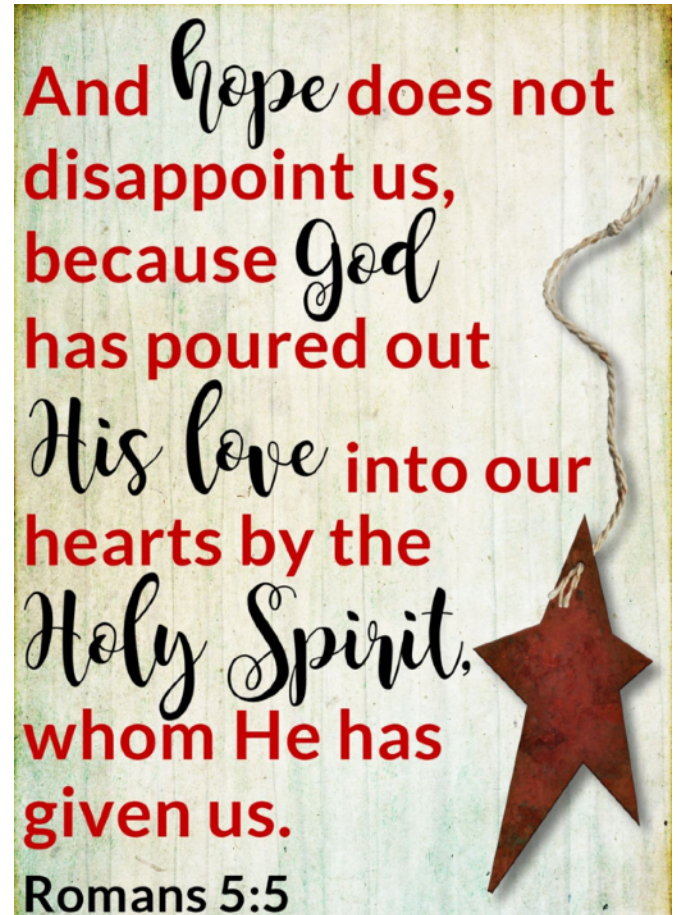
Romans 5:1-8 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

Peace and hope

5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **2** through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. **3** Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; **4** perseverance, character; and character, hope. **5** And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. **7** Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.

8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.



Matthew 9:35-10:8 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and illness. **36** When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. **37** Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. **38** Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'

10 Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and illness.

2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; **3** Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; **4** Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. **6** Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. **7** As you go, proclaim this message: "The kingdom of heaven has come near." **8** Heal those who are ill, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy,^[a] drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

Reflection by Margaret Liddle

Last week we had Jesus and Murray Walker telling the disciples to Go, Go, Go this week we have more of the same, the naming and sending out of the disciples.

I want to go back to the car theme but rather than racing drivers to look at learner drivers.

As a learner you spend hours with an instructor who hopefully is very patient, you're told what to do and how to do it. Instructions from how to start the car, move through the gears, how to cope with other drivers.

Then once you pass your test you're on your own, no one telling you what to do, what lane to be in at a roundabout.

You go solo which can be very scary at first.

Here Jesus is like that instructor he's taught the disciples and now he's sending them out on their own to continue his ministry. He is sending them out to minister to the Jews, to give them the message to repent before it's too late.

The disciples are called; to teach, to preach and to heal.

Mission is vital to any ministry to share Faith with others. The disciples and we are sent out and should do this not stagnate in our own Faith bubbles.

Mission should be shared it's not a one man band thing. We need to share mission; the difficulties we may face, the ups and downs. We need to sustain and help each other as those first disciples did.

Mission can be difficult, they and we will be asked difficult questions, especially at time of crisis like the one now and when people are hurting.

Questions like; why does God let this happen? where is he when I'm hurting?. As Christians we know he's alongside us those who have not found him yet do not.

We need to be ready for those questions and admit that just because we are Christians we don't have all the answers and we don't have things easy.

But we need to be truthful with people, there's nothing worse than trying to pull the wool over people's eyes, they'll see right through us. Then we will have lost them.

In all of this call to mission we need to have that perseverance as mentioned in the reading from Romans. If anything is worth doing one needs to persevere with it.

It's no use giving up at the first difficult question.

We may never know our words and deeds can affect people. How a small word or act of kindness can spread out like a seed growing.

People may not come to Faith with a blinding flash like St Paul but the fact that we don't give up, we persevere and in that perseverance we can hope and pray that more people may come to Faith.

Mission means being rooted in the words and teachings of Jesus and to share his life, his words, his deeds with them.

Mission is as important today as it was for those first disciples, we need to bring more to Faith if Christianity is to be shared and continue.

So let us share our Faith with others, share the difference Jesus makes in our lives.

We are conduits between; God, Jesus and others so let us;

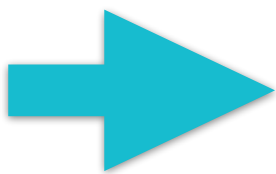
Go Go Go !!!! Amen.

PRAYER IN PROSE

Let us draw near and Worship.....

God Bless,

Sybil.



I heard this scripture spoken about many years ago at a worship conference in Southport. The leader was facing a question about 'music group/band' vs 'choir'.

They perhaps expected the speaker, being a contemporary Christian song writer, to come down in favour of the band.

Instead, they replied that so long as worship was in Spirit and Truth, then both were acceptable to God, however without Spirit and Truth, no matter how good they were technically, they were unacceptable in God's Kingdom. Neil

spirit and truth
W O R S H I P



When the things of the world seem so dark and so grim

When disease and despondency call,

Rejoice in the Lord and the nearness of Him –

May our kindness be witnessed by all!

When the pillars of life seem to crumble and creak

When our walls seem to tumble and fall.

In prayer and petitions our Father we seek –

May our kindness be witnessed by all!

The tempest may rage, but His wondrous peace

Stills the storms that may rage in our soul

In our hearts and our minds shall the turmoils cease

And our kindness is witnessed by all!

By Nigel Beeton

Peace be with you

(Jn 20:24-31, 14:5, 11:16)

Through absence,
Through doubt,
Through questions
And fears,
Through locked doors
And longing
Jesus comes.

His risen presence
Bringing blessing,
Hope and healing,
Restoration
And His precious,
Faith-affirming
Gift of peace.

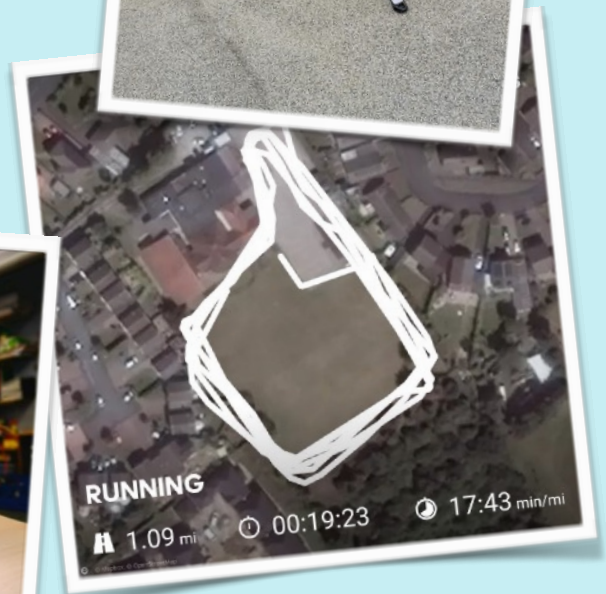
By Daphne Kitching

PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE PARISHES



This Rambling Rector is just a few weeks old, but the one Karen Robinson found in her newspaper this week is over 100 years old. Given the rate of growth of the one in the actual Rectory Garden, it won't be long before it fills the churchyard.

Some of our key worker children started a running club with Miss Waszak at St Oswald's Academy this week. They decided to run five laps around our field and playground as this equals a mile! They discussed breathing techniques, tips to improve stamina and then got chatting about marathons when they got back in class!



Another challenge was to build the highest tower with just 4 pieces of paper! It appears there was a clear winner there.

Churchyard Visit

I called in at the churchyard earlier this week to see how it was looking following all the dry weather we've had as it was beginning to look very parched last time I visited at the end of May and many plants were beginning to look stressed. Fortunately following the rain it was looking better but I noticed that many plants seemed to be reduced in size and vigour and many appear to have either failed to flower or have flowered in reduced numbers. However Ox-eye Daisies were still flowering everywhere along with Bird's-foot Trefoil, it's "bacon and egg" colours showing through the grasses. Some of our summer plants were also coming into flower. Field Bindweed, as usual, was starting its flowering season at the front of the church where it was trailing attractively along the concrete skirt of the church, but for the sake of our building it will need to be removed. I also saw my first Knapweed flower, which I photographed as it looked so fresh.

Even though it was late afternoon when I called in and quite cloudy I spotted one of the first summer butterflies, a Meadow Brown, which I also photographed. There was plenty of bee activity too as they nectared on tiny Cotoneaster flowers. Many Cotoneaster flowers are so small you can hardly call them blossom but one shrub (or tree) that is in blossom now is the Elder, which has lovely frothy umbels of tiny scented creamy-coloured flowers that also provide nectar for a variety of insects. Tricia



Rectory Revelation

Love Divine With A Twist...well Square Dance

Some years ago I was playing the keyboard for a couple I didn't know who were renewing their vows. I wasn't ordained and so the vicar was Trevor, who married Catherine and I.



They had requested that the sing 'Love Divine' as they'd had it at their original wedding, and so I was asked to play it on the keyboard, rather than the organist coming out. So, the couple arrived with their friends, and it all seemed very formal and proper. The hymn is announced and I began playing.

Keyboards back in the 90's weren't as easy to change on the hoof as they are now, and so after a verse had been sung I asked Catherine to turn up the string section sound. Except, I can't talk and play at the same time, unless I talk to the rhythm. Which meant that when Catherine asked me which button, I wasn't very clear. "This one?" Catherine said. I nodded...big mistake.wrong button.

So verse two of Love Divine was instantly transformed from organ and strings, to something akin to the Beverly Hillbillies as full on country and western accompaniment blasted out at full volume. I tried to play and carry on, whilst telling Catherine, in rhythm to the music, what to press to stop it.

From the congregation...not a muff, nothing. They just carried on singing, whilst I wanted the floor to open up and swallow me!

Live Zoom Services

Don't forget that every Sunday at 10.00am we are using Zoom to join together to worship.If you are unsure about using Zoom, then Hannah is more than happy to guide you through initial set up and have a practise run before the Sunday service. Please do get in touch with Hannah at hannahredeyoff@live.co.uk or 07875 500555.

THE DIRECT LINK TO JOIN AND THE MANUAL DETAILS ARE BELOW

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5963138891?pwd=WnFWVHlBbnhkLy9xZUVtMHp4V1J5dz09>

Meeting ID: 596 313 8891

Password: FABParish

Parish Office

Telephone: 01302 770240

Email: parishoffice@fabparish.org

Web: www.fabparish.org.uk

Facebook: [finningleychurch](https://www.facebook.com/finningleychurch) [stsavioursauckley](https://www.facebook.com/stsavioursauckley)

Twitter: [@finningleycofe](https://twitter.com/finningleycofe) [@auckleychurch](https://twitter.com/auckleychurch)

We also have a parish WhatsApp group. If you would like to join please text Hannah Redeyoff on 07875 500555