

The Rambling Rector

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

**I rejoiced with those who said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'**
(Psalm 122 v1)

**From Sunday 19th of July
Both St Oswald's and St Saviour's
will be open for public worship**

We know this will be good news to many, and to enable this to happen we have read and complied with the government's guidance on managing the risk of COVID-19 in places of worship.

This is fantastic news and I'm sure many of you will be very happy to have the opportunity to once again worship in our church buildings.

Reopening is possible because the Government and Church of England have imposed strict guidelines, which we MUST follow. This means a number of changes from what we might see as normal, so please read the following pages, which will explain the changes, guidelines, and what you need to do if you would like to take part in Sunday services in either of our church buildings.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE

- We have carried out a COVID-19 risk assessment
- We have cleaning, hand cleansing and hygiene procedures in place, in line with government guidance
- We have taken all reasonable steps to help everyone maintain a 2m distance between different users of our church

WHAT WE EXPECT YOU TO DO

- Refrain from entering if you are feeling unwell or have experienced any COVID-19 symptoms in the past seven days
- Take responsibility for your own safety and that of your household and other people
- Maintain the social distancing of 2m (6'6"), it is not optional
- Observe and follow all hygiene measures
- Ensure children are supervised at all times

BEFORE DECIDING TO PARTAKE IN PUBLIC WORSHIP

First. There is absolutely no pressure for anyone to attend. Your health and wellbeing must come first, and not coming along won't affect your salvation!

Secondly, some advice. Certain groups of people may be at increased risk of severe disease from COVID-19, including people who are aged 70 or older, regardless of medical conditions. Individuals who fall within this group are advised to stay at home as much as possible and, if they do go out, to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside of their household. So, you are asked to consider your own circumstances in this regard.

Finally, those who are considered to be extremely clinically vulnerable to COVID-19 will have been advised to shield. But from the 6th July, those shielding individuals may choose to gather in groups of up to 6 people outdoors and form a support bubble with another household, however they are still advised not to attend places of worship indoors.

SERVICE DETAILS

Finningley - Holy Trinity & St Oswald

10.00am Holy Communion each Sunday

IMPORTANT

Prior Booking is Essential

Whilst we never want to turn anyone away, this could sadly be necessary if we don't ask you to book in first.

Due to the current restrictions on distancing we are unable to accommodate our usual Sunday numbers in Finningley Church, we just don't have the space.

As frustrating as it is, and to avoid disappointment or embarrassment, we must ask that you please BOOK IN and DO NOT just turn up

This service will also be live streamed over Zoom using the same details as before.

Auckley - St Saviour

11.00am Holy Communion each Sunday

IMPORTANT

Prior Booking Is Essential

Whilst the usual congregation could probably be accommodated, we need to know where we may have spare capacity. So, if for example one building is full, we can advise that there is space in the other.

As frustrating as it is, and to avoid disappointment or embarrassment, we must ask that you please BOOK IN and DO NOT just turn up

This service will not be live streamed.



Whilst we are able to gather in our buildings to worship God our services will be very different from what we are used to.

On the next page we will outline the changes we have to make to comply with current guidance.



It's Church Jim

But not as we know it

To comply with all the measures put in place our Church services will be very different.

Below are the things that you will need to do, along with other changes to what we would perhaps call 'normal'.

We appreciate they may appear strict, but they are for everyone's health and wellbeing.

We will of course be monitoring the guidance, and will adapt and change as and when we can.

What Will Be Different?

- Finningley Service time is 10.00am and Auckley 11.00am.
- Wardens/Stewards will ensure social distancing at the entrance.
- On entering everyone must use the hand sanitiser.
- A two-metre 'rule' applies for public worship. Your name may be on a chair, or you may be told where to sit.
- Wearing of face-coverings is voluntary.
- Service Sheets will be printed each week and placed on each allocated seat. They should be taken home afterwards.
- While those at extra risk and the 'clinically extremely vulnerable' should be advised of the risks of attending public worship, a decision to do so is theirs alone.
- Doors will be kept open or ajar to facilitate ventilation.
- The vestry and kitchen are closed. Only clergy, service leaders, wardens, and treasurers should enter.
- The collection plate should not be brought up, and cashless payments encouraged above cash and envelopes. Gloves must be worn when handling cash and envelopes.
- Government guidance includes a request for names of attendees to be recorded and kept for 21 days. This is not mandatory, but will assist NHS Test and Trace with requests for that data if needed for contact tracing and the investigation of local outbreaks.
- Singing is not permitted, so there will be no hymns/songs.
- Unfortunately, in order to minimise risk, there can be no sharing of the Peace through physical contact, shaking hands and hugs.
- Holy Communion will be in one kind, only Neil will take the bread and wine.
- The words of distribution ('The body and blood of Christ' are spoken to the congregation, and all who intend to receive say, 'Amen' sit in their chairs.

- Please do not say 'Amen' at the communion rail. At the distribution, Holy Communion is administered in silence. The consecrated bread or wafer will need to be dropped into the hands of communicants.
- In order to avoid touching the rail, please do not kneel for communion.
- Please observe the arrows and markings in the choir area at Finningley.
- Those taking communion are asked to wait to go up, and to stand in the places marked on the floor with their arms outstretched.
- We are unable to have refreshments after the service, and we are asked to leave the building as soon as the service is over.
- The toilets will be kept open.
 - At Finningley we ask that you wait (socially distanced) near the sound desk if both toilets are in use - not in the tower. We will operate a one in one out policy.
 - At Auckley we will use only the accessible (disabled) toilet. again, please wait socially distanced in the entrance hall, not outside the toilet doors.
- Please observe all signs and posters concerning safe hygiene.

It's quite a long list, and there may be other changes that occur as we move forward. It's easy to focus on what we can't do, let us focus on Jesus and give thanks that we can once again worship in our buildings.

If You Want To Attend A Service

We would love to welcome everyone, however, social distancing means we may not be able to fit everyone in depending on numbers.

Finningley - If you would like to attend worship on Sundays, then you must book in with us by Friday evening. This is to ensure we can make this as fair as possible and maximise the capacity we have.

Auckley - Just come along at 11.00. However if you don't normally attend St Saviour's please book in via the Parish Office. You can email us at parishoffice@fabparish.org.uk or call us on 01302 770240.



We don't want you to have to get in touch each week. So, when you contact us initially could you indicate if you would like to come **weekly, fortnightly or monthly** or on an **ad hoc** basis.

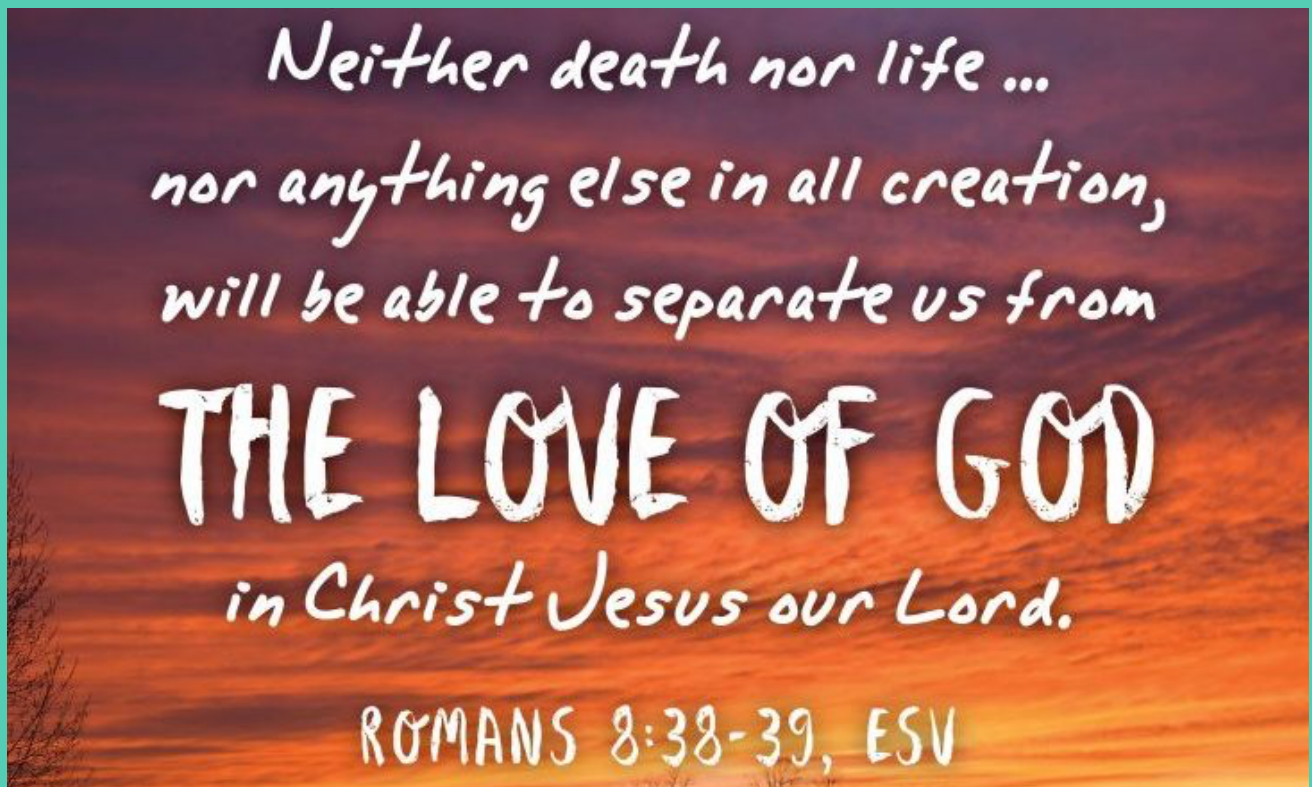
This will help us plan and let everyone know when to come along. We expect to have to tweak things as we go along, but will of course let everyone know of any changes.

And Finally

This has been a difficult and trying time for people the world over. Whilst restrictions are being relaxed, we need to remember that we're still in a pandemic.

For me personally, I have been frustrated by the restrictions, and long for 'normality' whatever that is. Things will be different for a while, a new 'normal' as people are saying. I'm thankful we have been able to meet on Zoom, and our online service will continue. However, I also empathise with those who for whatever reason haven't been able to access those services, and have missed their Church family.

God created us to be sociable people. So, whilst it's perhaps not ideal, I rejoice that we can once again, albeit with restrictions, be together in some way both online and now physically. As Paul said to the Church in Rome.



Take care, stay safe, God bless. Neil

How generous is your goodness, O God, how great is your salvation, how faithful is your love; help us to trust you in trial and praise you in deliverance; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

As we sing of your love, O Lord, anoint us with the Spirit's seal, that we may praise your faithfulness and proclaim your truth from age to age; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Faithful Lord, whose steadfast love never ceases and whose mercies never come to an end: grant us the grace to trust you and to receive the gifts of your love, new every morning, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Readings

Romans 8:1-11

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. **2** And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. **3** The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. **4** He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus

5 Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. **6** So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. **7** For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. **8** That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

9 But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) **10** And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. **11** The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Later that same day Jesus left the house and sat beside the lake. **2** A large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat there and taught as the people stood on the shore. **3** He told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one:

"Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. **4** As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. **5** Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. **6** But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died. **7** Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. **8** Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! **9** Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

18 "Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds: **19** The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts. **20** The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. **21** But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. **22** The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced. **23** The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

Reflection by Neil

Last week saw a great deal of media interest in a certain wedding, which led to me being interviewed on Look North and Radio Sheffield. Both asked me how COVID-19 would or had affected Hannah & Stephen's wedding.

My response was the same to both, We had a fantastic day and it will in no way be remembered as a pandemic wedding. Rather, a joyful and happy occasion for Hannah and Stephen, their family and friends as they made their vows to one another.

When you reflect and strip all the 'stuff' away and consider what is really important, then you reach the conclusion that the only important bit is the actual marriage. Everything else is tradition, what's expected, or just icing on the cake!

Quite literally, as I reached this point an email came in from the Bishop's advisor for Pastoral Care, Patricia Hunt.

She writes: A tree bends in the wind. As the wind abates it does not spring back to its original shape, but it is permanently changed. Lashed by the winds the tree has altered. New leaves and branches sprout from the trunk where old growths were severed. Scars and gnarls give the tree a unique character for the rest of its life span. It has a new beauty, new strength and new fresh green vigorous growth triggered by the trauma. This is a metaphor for Post Traumatic Growth - growth following adversity. The development of the capacity for resilience, for strength, for renewed life arising out of a crisis or trauma that has been survived. The very act of surviving can bring new sources of resilience, new life and new hope. What doesn't kill us often makes us stronger. What is really important in life, the things that really matter, have become clearer to us during this time as they have been etched out with clarity during the crisis.

As we head towards moving back into the physical building again, we have been encouraged by the Parish Support Team to consider the following:

1. What did we do before that we need to continue with?
2. What did we do before that we don't need to start again?
3. What have we begun that we should carry on with?
4. What have we begun that we should now consider stopping?

Like in the parable of the sower, the Church could also be represented; the church of course being us, the people.

- Does the church fall on the footpath? We hear, but don't understand, so just carry on as we always have?
- Or has it fallen in rocky soil? We embrace God word, but it's only superficial with no real roots. So, at the first sign of trouble or persecution we fold under pressure, wither and die.
- Maybe the trappings of the world and our own selfish desires are strangling God's voice in our hearts, like the thorns did the plants.
- Or, do we truly hear and understand God's word and produce fruit for the kingdom of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted?

As I reflect, I think we, as the church, have perhaps fallen within all of those four categories. 'Stuff' has got in the way. I wonder therefore what new insights have presented themselves during the past 4 months or so. What inspiration do we have for the things that can be left behind, and the new and richer growth that can come into the space created. How can we bear fruit a hundred fold what was planted?

Happenings From St Oswald's Academy

With just one week to go until the summer break, and more children back in school, here's a pictorial view of what some of the children have been up to this last week.



Old English Customs

From the book, "Old English Customs" by Roy Christian, published 1966.

Chapter Six, "Religious Customs":

"... A special service is held on the last Sunday in August each year at Eyam, Derbyshire, to commemorate the plague that raged through the village in 1665-1666 and the act of communal abnegation that accompanied it. The plague germ was carried to Eyam in September, 1665, in a box of clothing dispatched from London to a tailor in the village, whose entire household, himself excepted, died within the month. The disease then spread through the village, killing 259 of the 350 inhabitants in thirteen months.

That the plague was confined within the boundaries of Eyam was due to the self-sacrifice of the villagers, inspired by their Rector, the Rev. William Mompesson, assisted by his ejected predecessor, the Rev. Thomas Stanley. Mompesson drew a cordon round the village beyond which the people agreed on oath not to pass, and he arranged for food and medicine from outside to be deposited on the outskirts of the village.

To lessen the risk of infection, services were held each Sunday in the open air in a large hollow known as Cucklet Dell, and that is where the commemoration service is held on Wakes Sunday each year. Both Anglican and Nonconformist clergy go with the congregation in procession from the church, led by a band. The service includes the singing of a special Plague Hymn and an address. In 1965, the tercentenary of the outbreak of the plague, the address was given by the Archbishop of York. ..."

Sent in by D Godley via Sybil and Terry



"Looks like no one was available to fill in for the vicar's annual holiday again."

Keep your distance!

I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch you with a six-foot pole" would become national policy, but here we are!

Some miscellaneous observations on modern life...

It's called 'take home' pay because you can't afford to go anywhere else with it.

Success is relative - the greater the success, the more relatives.

You must have learned from others' mistakes. You haven't had time to think all those up yourself.

It's okay to let your mind go blank, but please turn off the sound.

Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.

Back To Nature

Our Brown Summer Butterflies

Now is the time to look out for our brown summer butterflies. Although superficially alike our 3 brown butterflies are quite different.

The first one to emerge is the Meadow Brown. The butterfly on the right is a female. The male has plain brown wings with just the eye spot on the forewing.



The Ringlet appears soon after. The rings on the underside of the wings give it its name and make it easier to distinguish it from the other brown butterflies.

The upper side of the wings of a freshly emerged butterfly is almost black fading with age to brown but it is distinguishable from the Meadow Brown by the distinctive white edge to its wings.

The last of the browns to appear is the Gatekeeper. This is a much brighter butterfly with more orange on its wings with a chocolate brown border and small white dots on the underside of the hindwings.



All these butterflies lay their eggs on grasses and can be seen in our churchyard meadows during the summer months but will come and feed from garden plants too.

So, this is probably the final Rambling Rector. It burst into growth in the spring, bloomed in the early summer, and began to fade towards the end.

Everything has a season, and it's been a great way to communicate with everyone during the days of lockdown.

Now is time for new growth as we once again reopen our churches, and so the Rambling Rector will be having a serious pruning, and a rest in a pile of well rotted manure.

Hopefully, it won't need to return, but if the need arises, it could well burst into another flurry of floribunda.

Lastly, this issue has a lot of information in it. If you have any questions, concerns, or need clarification over anything at all then please do get in touch and I will do my best to answer.



TAKE CARE

STAY SAFE

GOD BLESS

Neil

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 hannaherobinson@hotmail.com or 07875 500555.

THE DIRECT LINK TO JOIN AND THE MANUAL DETAILS ARE BELOW

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5963138891?pwd=WnFWVHlBbnhkLy9xZUVtMHP4V1J5dz09>

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