

The Rambling Rector

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



This is the final edition of the Rambling Rector in this format, and I hope and pray that as vaccines continue to roll out and rates of infections decline that this is indeed the last one.

From next Sunday, 18th April, services will once again commence in Finningley and Auckley churches - *please see further details inside*. Due to COVID, we will need to produce weekly service sheets again, and so any notices will be included in those, and also emailed out as a very slim 'Rambling Rector Lite' notice sheet. It's been a huge undertaking each week, so thank you to those who sent things in to publish.

In this final edition there is quite a bit of important information and news, so please do have a careful read, and if you have any questions...please ask the curate! Joking!

I pray that we can begin to ease gently back into physical church life, adapting where necessary, protecting when needed, and being innovative when possible, to enable all of us to continue to meet with God and grow in our walk of faith.

God bless, Neil

*The Lord says,
"I WILL GUIDE YOU ALONG
the best pathway for your life.
I WILL ADVISE YOU
—and watch over you—"*
PSALM 32:8

What Happens Now?

As this is being typed you are now able to get a haircut, go to the gym, and enjoy a pint outdoors, but of course things are still not as they were, and our Church life still remains very different. In the next few pages I'll try and give you a picture of where we are, and what we know.

Whatever lies ahead though, we hold on to the knowledge that God loves us, watches over us, and guides us.

Sunday Worship from 18th April 2021

Both our Church buildings will once again open for public worship this coming Sunday.

Holy Trinity and St Oswald's, Finningley at 10.00am.

St Saviour's, Auckley at 11.00am.

We know that some of you haven't been in either building for over a year, and perhaps you would now like to take the opportunity to worship physically in the church building, rather than over Zoom.

We know many of you have kindly held back and stuck to Zoom, but we can accommodate everyone who wants to come along. It could be that instead of weekly we attend physically every other week or once a month and zoom on the other Sundays.

What Do I Need To Do?

If you would like to attend either church physically, then you will need to let us know as we need to maintain social distancing and so have limited places. Please contact the parish office on 01302 770240, email parishoffice@fabparish.org.uk to let us know, and we will confirm your seat by Friday evening. Previously a pattern worked out, so it became relatively straight forward.

How Will It Work?

There is significant legislation and guidance still in place covering public worship. Both PCC's want to emphasise the need to follow them. If we cannot do so, then we will have to review the situation.

PLEASE NOTE: BEING VACCINATED DOES NOT REMOVE THE NEED TO SOCIALLY DISTANCE!

- The service at Finningley will be hybrid. It will be live streamed from the church building via Zoom as well as having people physically present.
- The service at Auckley will be on site only.
- Booking is essential as we are still required to continue with the 2m social distancing rules inside our buildings between different households/support bubbles.
- Face masks continue to be mandatory, unless someone is exempt.
- Inside there can be no 'mingling' at all between different households/support bubbles. Whilst we know fellowship and socialising is important to us all, we are not yet legally allowed to do so indoors. Mingling happens even if we talk 2m away from one another. This means that sadly we must just enter the building, sit down, worship, and at the end leave, with no talking to anyone outside our household/support bubble. Once outside the rule of 6 will apply.
- We must sanitise our hands on entering the building, before and after receiving communion, and finally before leaving the building.
- Singing indoors is sadly still not allowed.

Will Everything Return to Normal on the 21st June?

That is a good question. I know we all long to be able to mix together again and of course sing, however, there are no guarantees, as yet, that things will simply revert to how they used to be on the 21st of June. Below is the current information we have, direct from the Government website.

Social Distancing and Face Masks

"At Step 3: Finally, before Step 4 begins [21st June at the earliest], the government will complete a review of social distancing and other long-term measures that have been put in place to cut transmission. This will inform decisions on the timing and circumstances under which the rules on 1 metre plus, the wearing of face coverings and other measures may be lifted. This will also inform guidance on working from home – which should continue wherever possible until this review is complete.

By Step 4 which will take place no earlier than 21 June, the government hopes to be in a position to remove all legal limits on social contact."

It therefore reads that a review unsocial distancing and masks will take place between Step 3 [17th May at the earliest] and Step 4, and that this will then be used to inform future decisions.

In addition they add the following, which mentions Wedding and other life events:

“Business, activities and life events (Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals)

We hope to reopen remaining premises, including nightclubs, and ease the restrictions on large events and performances that apply in Step 3. This will be subject to the results of a scientific Events Research Programme to test the outcome of certain pilot events through the spring and summer, where we will trial the use of testing and other techniques to cut the risk of infection. **The same Events Research Programme will guide decisions on whether all limits can be removed on weddings and other life events.”**

It is probably fair to say that we just don't know at this stage. I share your frustration in not knowing, and will of course pass on new information as we receive it. Please keep those people with weddings and baptisms arranged soon after the 21st June in your prayers, as they face some worrying uncertainty right now.

Singing In Church

Again, we just don't know. Currently it isn't permitted inside the building, and it isn't mentioned further in any information we have.

Changes For Zoom from 18th April

No need to panic, we're not changing the sign in details or anything! They stay the same:

Meeting ID: 596 313 8891

Password: FABParish

But technical support has now changed.

Hannah Robinson has been go to expert for all things Zoom related, however, as maternity leave is about to begin she has decided it's time to take a little step back.

So, if you need any technical assistance for Zoom please now contact Neil and on Sunday mornings Catherine Redeyoff will be the Zoom host.

Huge thanks to Hannah who has been brilliant with technical help, advice, and hosting on Sundays and at other times. It can at times be a very tricky job as technology can be fickle at times! We have certainly had our moments with it over the months! Thanks Hannah - feet up, Stephen brew up!



Bible Study Group

Our Zoom bible study group will start again on Tuesday 27th April at 7.00pm and will then continue fortnightly. A little later than hoped, but we have a Deanery meeting on the 20th.

As always, it's open to everyone, and there is no pressure to answer questions or offer opinions. Some like to simply sit and listen, others like to ask questions, and others make suggestions - it's all good whatever you want to do.



We are currently exploring some resources and will hopefully have more information next week.

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

Dates and Information for Reports

Our meetings this year are on the following dates following advise from the Diocese that we hold them after [potentially] after Step 3 on the 17th May.

- **Finningley is on Tuesday 18th May at 7.00pm (this will be on Zoom as well)**
- **Auckley is on Monday 24th May at 7.00pm**

Reports

Our last APCM's were in October due to COVID, and so there has only been around 6 months since the last one, plus, we are reporting up to the end of December 2020 so really just 2 months, and during that time many of our activities didn't take place.

I would suggest therefore that we only have the statutory reports, which would be:

- Secretary - report on the proceedings of the PCC
- Electoral Roll - any changes
- Accounts and Financial Statement - Including Parish Giving Scheme and Gift Aid
- Deanery Synod - I don't think there was a meeting in that time frame!
- Wardens - fabric, goods and ornaments of the church

Elections

Despite the shortened time, elections for Church Wardens and PCC Members will still take place.

CAROL TO BE ORDAINED PRIEST

It has been confirmed that this years ordination of Priests will take place on the

26th June, in Sheffield Cathedral at 4.00pm.

This of course means that our very own Carol will be travelling to the land of hills to have episcopal, and my, hands laid upon her.

The Cathedral are planning for this to go ahead with some kind of normality, however, they are aware that COVID may still impinge on this service. Nevertheless, they are inviting churches to apply for tickets.

Carol would love to have as many of us there as possible to support her, and celebrate, on this important day. So, if you would like to attend, could you please let Neil know by April 18th as the Cathedral has set a deadline for ticket applications.

Live 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 Neil is very happy to guide you through initial set up and have a practise run before the Sunday service. Please get in touch with Neil at parishoffice@fabparish.org.uk or ring 01302 770240 or 07359 065644.

TO SIGN IN, PLEASE USE THE DETAILS BELOW

Meeting ID: 596 313 8891

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