



Update from the PCC – July 2020



The PCC met this week and it seemed appropriate to provide everyone with an update on various matters:

Giving

Thanks to all those who are continuing to give, who have increased their giving and who are giving in a planned way. We are very grateful to everyone for this – we couldn't manage without it. A response of generosity even in these times is a response to God's goodness to us, so it is appropriate that we continue to give and re-assess our giving.

At our meeting it was reported that the weekly giving received in church is down by £5,000 this year so far, which is significant. It is hoped that those who usually give in person on Sundays will be able to give the 'missed weeks' once they return to church to help make up the shortfall. If you are in this category are you able to think about setting up a Standing order instead so that the church is guaranteed the giving sooner and in a regular way?

We appreciate that with the change in everyone's circumstances some may be thinking about having to reduce their giving and we are grateful for whatever you are able to give.

Tower and Spire Project

With the exception of a few minor snagging issues the building project is now complete, although there are still a few other items to be finalised. All heritage activities have been put on hold until further notice.

Thank you to all those who gave so generously to the project in skills and time and money.

As you know the bells are back and will hopefully be rung as worship begins back in church.

Services update

As a trial during August there will be a short said service of Holy Communion on Sundays in church at 9am. There will be no music and only a short address with the service lasting approx. 30 minutes in total. Our live-streamed service will continue to be broadcast into your homes at 10.30am for the foreseeable future.

On Wednesdays the church will also be open for private prayer 10am – 12noon with a short service of 'Prayer in the Day' at 11.45am. The church will not be open on Tuesdays or Saturdays.

We expect that the church will accommodate between 30-40 people (depending on the number of households attending). We don't know how popular this service will be, but if we are full we would ask you to bear with us and we will guarantee you a place the following Sunday. Whilst it might be good to arrive a few minutes early it will not be necessary to camp overnight (!) and very early queuing may inconvenience our neighbours and jeopardise social distancing, so please avoid that.

At the 9am service in church you will notice some differences and we would be grateful if you carefully follow the verbal instructions which you will receive once you arrive about entering and exiting the building, where to sit, how to receive Holy Communion (just in one kind - there will be no wine offered) and other housekeeping matters. These are all being planned for your safety and reassurance. With continued monitoring we may need to change arrangements - please bear with us.

In line with the latest government advice masks should be worn, unless there are legitimate reasons not to do so.

Social distancing must be observed at all times including outside the building and please do not attend if you have any symptoms of the virus.

In order to take advantage of the 72 hour time period between services in church (to minimise the risk of infection) no one is allowed to enter the church at other times without the agreement of Helen or the Wardens.

Children and Young People

Our on-line children's groups won't be happening over August, but we will be making plans for the best that we can offer our children and young people from

September. Along with those who are not internet enabled, we are painfully aware that our children and young people are suffering most in the limited provision we are able to make for them. We would welcome ideas or conversations from any parents or children or young people themselves (either through the survey mentioned below) or on email or the phone to discuss what we can offer to ensure that everyone feels a full, loved and valued member of our church.

Survey

During August we intend to put out a survey so you can tell us about what has worked (or not worked) for you over these last few months in church life and how we might move forward together. Please do fill out the survey as soon as you can, once you receive it. We will make it available on line and in printed form. The PCC are meeting again in the third week of August to make some more decisions and it would be good to have as much input as possible.

Cameras

Meanwhile, the PCC has agreed to the installation of two cameras in the church to allow for live streamed worship to be broadcast from the church. This will increase the technical demands on a Sunday morning and we are hoping that (with training) a number of people will come forward to help with this and be trained to work the equipment. If you would be willing to take part in this then please let Helen know asap.

Social Events

It might be good to hold a socially distanced Quiz Night at the cornerHOUSE or on-line or have weekly meetings in Fishponds park over the summer holidays or some other events but we do need some people to offer to help to organise these. Any offers please to Helen or the wardens.

APCM

You may recall that we held our 'not the APCM meeting' back in April but we are still not able to conduct the business of appointing new PCC members, Deanery Synod Reps, officers or at an Annual Meeting of Parishioners new

Churchwardens. Pauline Keane had expected to be able to step back as warden by now and Jackie Farris had agreed to stand in her place. Until Jackie's appointment (or that of any other willing volunteer – we do not want to pre-empt the outcome of the election!) Jackie is taking a higher profile in church affairs to support Mike and Pauline and we are grateful to each of them.

Eco-church

From September Jen Houghton will be our Ordinand. Amongst other things she is going to take on responsibility for the mission thread which is about taking care of the environment as we look to become an eco-church. If you are interested in this then please get in contact with Jen.

Also if anyone is able to help with re-designing and working on the old rose garden (to the left of the main doors) which we would like to develop into a sensory garden, please let the Wardens know. We are also planning to install bicycle racks as part of this development, renew the noticeboards and attend to some long-overdue tree pruning.

AwayWeekend

We are planning to postpone the AwayWeekend planned for this October until next year – more details when life is a little more certain.

Parish Office

Julie, our Administrator, has continued to work throughout the last few months but is taking a well-earned break during August. If you have any queries or questions, please address them to Helen or the Wardens.

If you are able to offer any help as requested then please get in touch with:

Helen - teamrector@stmatthewskt6.org or 020 8390 3829

Mike - mickyttaylor@aol.com

Pauline - paulinekeane@btinternet.com

Jackie - jackie.farris1@btopenworld.com

or on the eco initiative jen.houghton@hotmail.com