

# Letters from Lockdown

The latest from Christ Church Henley

29.6.2020 Letter no. 2

## Inside

Read about Donna's new adventure, see a garden floating in the air, and find out more about the Christ Church Centre and how we plan to re-open.

## The Inside Story

How to come to church safely. It will be different, it will feel strange but it will be good to be together. Don't forget to bring your Bible.

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## A huge Thank-you

To all those who have helped keep the church functioning in many ways during the lockdown. That includes the Elders, F&F, those who have prompted (never, ever, nagged!) till things happen. You know who you are!

## Phantom Gardeners

Graveyard transformation has been taking place as the brambles and briars have been hacked, hedges trimmed and the forces of chaos driven back.

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## Singing "Happy Birthday" to Dilys!

## Opening up - the beginning.

The slow process of opening up the Church and Centre begins this week, as we open the church for **private prayer**. We'll do this on Wednesday afternoons 12-2pm. This will continue through July and we'll see how it goes. Our churches are not normally open in this way, but we'll soon discover if there is a need, and it will also enable us to test out the procedures we need for opening for **public worship on Sundays from July 19th**.

As we open we will need to stick to certain safety guidelines and procedures - we don't want to put each other in harms way. And that is the vital point -

**If you are supposed to be shielding, or if being together in a building will worry you, please stay at home!**

Details of how we'll run this are inside. On-line worship will continue in parallel for some time, certainly into the autumn, so if you have found that helpful it will still be there for you. The Elders have just agreed to try running **Messy Church on-line** over the summer - when it will be safe to resume those meetings is not yet clear.

# Coming to church safely - for everybody's sake.

## PROCEDURES FOR PEOPLE ENTERING THE CHURCH

Wash your hands before you leave home.

Wear a face mask if that gives you more confidence.

Enter the Church shown by the steward on duty and the directions

Just inside the door, use the hand gel to sanitise your hands

Use one of the pews not roped off. Households may share a pew, otherwise keep to the 2metre distance (that may change)

Chairs with paper on have already been sat on during this session and must not be used

If you wish to use a Bible or

prayer book, please bring your own from home. There will be no singing for the time-being.

When you have finished, use the hand gel by the other door to sanitise your hands

Leave by that door

## Please remember:

### Vital points:

Do not enter the building if you have any of the symptoms of COVID-19

(a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste)

Please enter the church via the street doors. Do not

access the church via the concourse. Doors will be marked for entry and exit. we aim to create a one-way system.

Toilets will not be available to use, unless in an emergency.

Sadly we cannot at this stage serve drinks. The best place

for conversation will be outside in the garden, weather permitting.



*Caring for each other.*

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Glyn (01491412621) or any of the Elders

## Opening up the Centre!

In many ways opening up the Church is the easy part of what we need to do. The Centre with it's constant flow of people of all ages is a much more challenging prospect.

All our wonderful Centre staff are currently on furlough. Anita and Lucille will return on a restricted basis on July 6th to begin contacting user-groups, dealing with enquiries (there have been some!) and planning for a very gradual re-opening. At this stage it is hard to

forecast just how that will work out.

Currently the **Village Montessori Pre-School** are using the Haymes Hall and Coffee bar, but with a limited number of children. It is likely that the first groups to return will be children's groups. Groups involving senior citizens are likely to be much slower to return. The great advantage of our buildings is that most of the rooms, though not all, can be accessed from the outside, thus reducing internal traffic.

One of the biggest challenges will be what to do about catering.

Returning to anything like the pre-lock-down level of catering is likely to take a long time

And while on the subject of catering: **Doug** has been working miracles in his garden over lockdown! He never stops.

**Donna**, has acquired a van and is running a take-away service in the High Wycombe Matalan Car Park. I'm sure she would be glad to see you!

# Bubbles!

Recipients of the weekly email will know that I have been offering the recipe for my special bubble mix to anyone who wants to try it. It produces huge bubbles and is cheap too, though it has to be green Fairy Liquid, nothing else has quite the same effect.

Always with an eye open for a good thing Caroline Fairbrother took me up on this, brewed up a batch and turned young Albert loose on the result. He loved it! which you can tell by the smile on his face. This is a brilliant picture, with the garden reflected in the surface of the bubble.



# Graveyard Transformation! Spot the Birds!



# All on a summer's evening

Walking along the river bank at Mill Meadows the other evening I spotted the ornithological oddity below - indeed it is hard to miss! On it's tail, which alas I couldn't photograph, it bears the sign "Thank you N.H.S". Quite!!



## **A note from the Elders on finance.**

Just a quick note from the Elders' Meeting, to thank those who have moved their financial support to the church onto standing orders during the lockdown. That is hugely re-assuring as we navigate the next few months. As the government's furlough scheme slowly fades away our costs will increase but income will pick up only slowly, so thank you for your thoughtfulness in what are very difficult times for many. We would like to encourage those who use the envelope scheme to keep using them - it's a good habit!