

## RE-OPENING CHURCH OCTOBER 2020

Some very good news: following a relaxation of local measures, public worship in S. John's will start again with a 10 am Mass this Sunday, 11 October. But we have to follow guidance from the Government, the County Council and the Church of England. That is largely similar to the guidance we observed when we were able to have two or three Wednesday morning Masses in July.

Members of the congregation must maintain social distancing. Alternate rows of pews are taped off. Family bubbles may arrive and sit together, but must avoid the usual mingling with other worshippers. People should wear masks unless they have a certified exemption or are conducting a part of the service – reading a lesson or leading prayers, for example. People over the age of seventy should be aware they are more at risk if they catch the coronavirus than younger people.

Worship will not yet be as it was before the pandemic struck. We are very much 'feeling our way', and it seems wise to take one step at a time. Singing is not permitted, nor is the use of service sheets which may be handled by others. The Peace must not be shared by physical contact (except within one's family bubble). Communion will be in one kind for all but the priest who is presiding. There will not be a server/serving team. Other differences may become apparent.

To assist with planning in these early stages, if you intend to come on Sunday mornings it would help if you inform the Parish Administrator, Sue Oakes on 512539 or by email at [administrator@stjohnshorninglow.org.uk](mailto:administrator@stjohnshorninglow.org.uk)

We have assessed the church's capacity, though it depends on whether people come as singles, couples or larger families. We think it's large enough for the expected numbers. We hope not to have to turn people away, even if they have not declared their intention to come. But, in the case of the church reaching its socially distanced capacity, we are sure the reason will be understood.

For the time being, Mass will be said on Sundays at 10 am and Wednesdays at 9.30 am. The Sunday Mass will continue to be live-streamed on Facebook and available later on YouTube.

I hope to see you in church if it's safe for you.

Fr Michael

8 October 2020