

Dear Friends,

19th June 2020

At last! From Saturday morning St Peter & St Paul and St Mary's Ballinger will be open. Yes -it will be only for private prayer. Yes -it will be for up to 5 people. Yes- there are cans of sanitiser and notices all over the place. We can live with that. It's a start. A sign of life and a sign of hope.



Thank you so much for everyone who has made this possible. There has been a ton of stuff to plough through, but we now have a completed risk assessment and comply with all the requirements. We have made a little video showing what to expect so please check the web-site, Facebook or village notice boards for further details. Please sanitise your hands both when entering and leaving the building and follow the distancing guidelines and try not to touch anything except the pew with your posterior!. St Peter and St Paul will be open approximately 9am-5pm each day. If you'd like to visit Little Hampden Church please contact Tricia or the

parish office.

One of the many landmarks of the year which will be different this year is our Patronal Festival. The date is June 28th and we'd like to make it feel as communal as possible. To do this and get as many people involved as we can, Elizabeth and Rosie will be putting together a video of messages and greetings from across the Parish. There are lots of ways of taking part. If you are happy to join a Patronal Zoom please let Elizabeth know so that she can invite you and send you the link. If you'd like to send either of us a mini video to include our email addresses are below. We can also use photos and phone recordings -there are lots of ways. We could even come to the end of your garden and take a shot or two.



Then in the afternoon we want to try having a garden party. Obviously there are limits to how we do this, so we are going to try by having 20 min slots through the afternoon where 6 people can come along with their own mug and we will provide tea and a chance to chat. Please give Harriet a call and she will pop you into one of those slots. If you happen to turn up bearing cake (either individual ones or already cut up) that would be a real treat!

The normal on-line services continue although we might make the 6.00pm on the Patronal Sunday a bit different. David and Brenda Harris continue with wonderful poetry and prose in the series of occasional lunchtime readings on Facebook and at www.missendenchurch.org.uk/occasionalreadings

Our usual pattern of worship, prayer and activity continues including 8am, 10am and 6pm Sunday services livestreamed at www.facebook.com/greatmissendenchurch and the option of phoning in to listen to audio only by contacting David Harris on 01494 868 237. Do get in touch if you'd like a chat, a prayer or help. We will write again soon.

With our love and prayers,

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