

Dear friends,

We are taking some small, tentative steps towards a more sociable life. More than ever, I'm aware that we cannot predict even a week ahead but can only trust God – and make wise and sensible decisions with the information we have in the moment.

The stewards have been working incredible hard to achieve our return to the church building (see more below) and I cannot thank them enough. Let us also remember though that the church is not the building, but the people – so however we gather be it in person, online, in large or small numbers, we are the Body of Christ, we are the Living Stones. The Church is relevant and active when we are caring for our neighbours, phoning our friends, praying for justice, acting for peace, however we can.

With love and prayers,
Alison

Histon Methodist Church Notices

Sunday 30th August 2020

Services that we can all take part in:-

8.00 am Sunday service on Radio Cambridgeshire.

8.10am Sunday worship on Radio 4

BBC 1 Songs of Praise. (check TV guide for times)

This week we pray for Liz and Anne and all in their pastoral groups.

Report from Church Council Meeting Held 20th August on line

The Church Council agreed that we will open the church building for worship on Sunday 6th September. This service will be led by Judy Wynn.

Bearing in mind that there have been many deaths caused by covid-19, the majority of our congregation are in the high risk bracket through age and that a few have been shielding for the past few months, we must follow government and Methodist Church guidelines before opening.

Therefore we are telling people that they must book a seat for each service. At present we feel it is safe for our congregation if we limit it to 20 people. We will issue a phone number (which will change for each service) to ring to book your seat so it is open to all members. It will be on a first come first served basis. If anybody turns up without booking they will be asked to stand aside and wait until all who have booked have arrived and been seated. If we are full then I am afraid "There is no room at the inn" and you will be sent away.

For those of you who feel that they are not ready to come to church in person and do have access to the internet we will be videoing the service and putting a link to You Tube from the church web page: www.histonmethodist.org

REMEMBER TO BOOK YOUR SPACE FOR THE 6TH SEPTEMBER AT 10.30 PLEASE TELEPHONE ROSEMARY

Emerging from Covid lockdown:

Emerging from lockdown is much more complicated than entering it!

- The service will be only 30 minutes long. **In future, depending on demand we may have to consider 2 separate services**, one at 10.30 and one at 12 noon.
- **No singing is possible** – but an organist can play, and we will be able to use recorded music and video clips, as we already do.
- We will try and have the words of hymns on the screen, but if you need a hymn book please bring your own copy.
- We will only use the foyer to enter and exit.
- We will provide hand sanitiser, which must be used when entering church.

- We will need to maintain a register of all those attending each worship/service (in the event that “track and trace” need that information).
- **Face coverings must be worn at all times in church.**
- You will be shown to your seat and asked to stay there until directed when to leave.
- Doors and windows will be left open for ventilation, so bear in mind the building may be chilly.
- We would respectfully ask that people do not wander around the building unnecessarily (except for needing to use the toilets)
- Please bring a bottle of water with you if you need it.
- We are sorry we are unable to serve tea and coffee after the service at the moment.
- Please remember you will need to observe social distancing whilst waiting to be shown to your seat.

This week's saying:

Today I will smile and bring happiness to everyone – including myself.

If anyone would like to write an article for a future issue please let me know.

John (on behalf of the stewards).