

# Rector's Covid-19 Crisis Letter 7th July from St Lawrence Church, North Wingfield



Dear Friends

## Rector's Covid-19 Letter 7th July

I hope and pray you are keeping safe and well as we make our way through the disruption Covid-19 has made to our lives. Once again, I want to encourage and express appreciation to you all, as members of St. Lawrence Church, for the way you have responded to the ongoing situation. In

a number of different ways, I have seen care, concern, love, support and a lot of hard work going on among us. People have truly 'stepped up to the plate' in ways seen and unseen. You have truly seized the opportunity for serving God in difficult and uncharted circumstances.

We now find ourselves in a phase in the pandemic where we are emerging from 'Lockdown'. This is a very difficult phase because it throws up lots of 'grey areas' and the need to try to interpret directives from both the government and the Church of England. As we do this, it is important to remember the pandemic is far from over and to try to stick to the rules as best we can.

On 4<sup>th</sup> July, the permission was given to allow churches to open for worship. This followed a previous permission to open churches for private prayer. In view of this, myself, and the Church Wardens, agreed to open St. Lawrence Church building for private prayer on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July from 10am 'til 12 noon and to conduct a service on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July at 10am. Both these events are subject to strict Covid-19 prevention guidelines and protocols.

If you come for private prayer on Wednesday, you will be instructed on these guidelines and protocols.

The service on Sunday throws up several issues that we all must understand as follows:

- The service will be 'live streamed' on our church Facebook group page and then later posted on 'You Tube'.
- The style will be like our Sunday morning 'live streamed' services but subject to a number of restrictions the most difficult of which is that no congregational singing is allowed. Singing is considered a primary route of virus transmission.
- Because we must adhere to strict social distancing rules, the seating capacity of the building will be greatly reduced. We can only accommodate a congregation of 30.

- To address this, we will operate a booking system similar to the one we use for Messy Church. If you would like to attend the service on Sunday morning, please contact Mel Earland on 07885 730469 either phoning or texting. She will then book you a place on a 'first come' basis.
- Please remember, there is no compulsion to attend. The service will be 'streamed' and if you are in a 'vulnerable' category you must be careful.
- On the day you will be required adhere to Covid guidelines and protocols which will include using hand sanitizer and social distancing. There will be no refreshments served.
- Hopefully, all this will not put you off as there is a real joy in actually physically being together with other believers to worship God if you can.

Please pray for us as we will continue to make difficult decisions as 'Lockdown' eases. In the end, it is important for us to keep safe, work together and encourage each other.

Let me leave you with a verse from the Bible which has been a huge blessing to me during these uncertain times:

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding'

(Proverbs 3 verse 5)

With love in Christ,

Colin Cooper



### **Prayer of Protection from St. Patrick**

CHRIST BE IN YOU. CHRIST BEFORE YOU

CHRIST BEHIND YOU, CHRIST IN YOU

CHRIST BENEATH YOU, CHRIST ABOVE YOU

CHRIST WHEN YOU LIE DOWN, CHRIST WHEN YOU SIT DOWN

CHRIST WHEN YOU ARISE

AMEN

### **CONTACTS**

**Rev. Colin Cooper** Email: revccooper@gmail.com

Tel: 01246 851181 or 07794 845205

**Facebook**

Stlawrencechurchnorthwingfield

**Website**

www.stlawrencenorthwingfield.org

