

MINUTES

Present: Revd. Henry Curran, Kate Curran, Kathryn Hubbard, Debs Hunt, Becca Haines, Stacey Mutch, Ian Knight, Jonathan Larsson, Chris Drew. David Gibson was present for the discussion but left before we made decisions.

Apologies

Rosie Adsley, Lawrence Ward, Joyce Cooper, Fiona Houghton.

Plans to restart services

This extra meeting was called in order to discuss government guidance issued this week that churches will be allowed to reopen for services from 4th July, with certain restrictions. David Gibson was invited to join us for the discussion part of the meeting to represent the views of the older generation.

Henry had not yet received updated guidance from the Church of England or from the diocese. We know that services will be limited by the space available for social distancing – if we use 1 metre distancing we would be able to use 16 pews, which would mean a maximum of 16 households or 32 individuals or a combination of these. Face masks may be needed at 1m distance. Singing will not be allowed. We do not know yet whether toilets can be used. The building must be left empty for 72 hours between services unless we carry out a deep clean each time.

We looked at the results of last week's survey of 23 church members, of whom a majority wanted to wait until services were more normal before returning to church, and the most popular dealbreakers were singing, social distancing and use of toilets.

Currently around 80 households are watching our online services, which is at least as many as would attend church services on a normal Sunday.

Becca proposed and Ian seconded *that we do not reopen the church for services on 5th July but continue meeting online, and that this decision will be reviewed regularly.* Passed unanimously. The next review will be at our PCC meeting on 6th July.

Stacey proposed and Kathryn seconded *that, subject to ongoing guidance from the government and Church of England, we open the church for a brief prayer meeting on the evening of Sunday 5th July.* Passed.