

HIGH FRAMLAND NEWS



COVERING THE PARISHES OF

St Guthlac's, Branston : St Botolph & John the Baptist, Croxton Kerrial
St Michael & All Angels, Harston : All Saints, Knipton
St Peter's, Saltby : St Bartholomew, Sproxton

August 2020

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

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FROM THE PEN OF THE PARISH PRIEST

With the re-opening of church buildings across the country comes the inevitable question of when our own church buildings will re-open. On the face of it, this is an easy question to answer; but in order to open safely, we need to make sure our buildings won't become epicentres of coronavirus.

There will be a number of striking changes to our worship, most noticeably the need to be socially distant during services as well as the wearing of face coverings. We will also be limited to thirty people per service, so it may be necessary to have people give notice that they will be attending services. This is dependent largely on how services are organised across both benefices.



To help you think through these changes, it might be helpful to imagine the following for a service of Holy Communion.

Upon arriving at church, people will be greeted and asked to use hand sanitiser, before completing a form for NHS Track and Trace. (These could easily be printed out beforehand, and brought to the service). People will either bring their own service booklet with them, or they will pick up for themselves a booklet for use during the service, and leave it behind to be collected 72 hours later.

When people arrive, they will begin filling the church up from the front, observing social distancing as they move to their seats and where they sit down.

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The priest will ideally have arrived before everyone else, and will have sanitised their hands before setting up the altar, to ensure as few people as possible handle the Communion vessels and the bread. When people come up to receive Communion, they will move toward the place where they'll receive Communion at two metre intervals, will sanitise their hands before receiving Communion, and will stand to receive only the bread, before returning carefully to their seats.

At the end of the service, people will leave promptly, beginning with those at the back of church. The priest will clear away the altar. If there is any music during the service, it will only be from a recorded source.

In returning to our church buildings, we face a range of logistical issues that will need careful thinking through, and at times we will need to be pragmatic. Some of our buildings will allow more people to be socially distanced because of layout and arrangement of pews - so we need to think through the logistical issues separately for each building, even where there are similarities in building layout.

There may also be a need to change service times to allow services to be taken; there will be a need to make sure clergy and readers can take services safely, and

can set up and clear away with sufficient time to travel, should they need to.

These are strange times, indeed, and we will all need to try and be patient with one another as we move forward and begin to learn how best to organise our buildings and our services. It is vital that we take our lead from the House of Bishops and follow their guidance, even if we find parts of that guidance frustrating.

But as we look to re-opening our buildings for worship, a gentle reminder that there will continue to be some churches where it just won't be feasible to open at this time. This might be because of the state of the building, or because key people involved in the life of the church have been shielding, or because the PCC is simply uncertain about opening the building.

Church buildings will re-open as and when PCCs feel able to support the opening. It may well be that confidence will grow as church buildings around us open up and begin to be used for worship once more.

David Cowie

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It is hoped to start the village hall lunches again on Wednesday, 9th September.

Sproxton Village Hall June 50/50 winners

1st J Haycock : 2nd M Smith : 3rd E Purse

Copies of this newsletter can be found at www.highframland.co.uk

Please would you pass any items for September by **SUNDAY, 16th AUGUST**

to Sue Watford, tel 01949 861256; email SueWatford@aol.com