

# ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH & PARISH MAGAZINE

## JUNE 2020 SUPPLEMENT

### Parochial Church Council (PCC) News

#### **Church To Open – Praise The Lord!**

The Government announced on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June that churches could be opened again for *private prayer* from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June. In anticipation, a small group of PCC members is this week preparing our Church for opening.

St Michael's will, from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June, once again, be unlocked from around 9am to around 6pm each day, for private prayer. A few practical points worth noting:

- The porch door will be held ajar so that we can all enter without having to touch any door handles.
- All books, leaflets etc have been removed and visitors are asked to minimise what surfaces they touch.
- We have received a kind donation of hand sanitiser – please use this on entering and leaving the Church.
- Please respect social distancing and don't enter if numbers mean social distancing cannot be maintained.
- The church will be regularly cleaned and surfaces wiped down.
- The kitchen and toilet will be locked.

We will keep the above under review and adjust procedures if needed. If you do visit and notice something isn't quite right, do please get in touch with one of the Churchwardens.

#### **The Building May Be Closed But The Work Of The Church & Community Continues**

One of the things this extraordinary situation has brought home to us is that the church is much more than the building: the church is the community of believers in Christ, out in the world, doing God's work. And we have seen our whole community coming together as never before to help and support each other in many wonderful ways.

There have been so many acts of kindness, love and generosity. Thank You.

#### **PCC Meetings**

During lockdown, the PCC have joined the rest of the world and "gone virtual" - holding Zoom meetings and, amongst other matters, the following have been discussed:-

- Ongoing support for the Parish from the Diocese.
- Arrangements for weddings during the coming 12 months. Hannah Owen, our Wedding Verger, has been co-opted to the PCC and, with others, is responsible for managing the wedding schedule.



- Before Covid, the regular Story Time was very popular but, thanks to Rebecca Jones, this has moved online, much to the delight of our children: if any children would like to join in please leave your contact email on the Facebook page and Rebecca will be in touch with you. A big thank you also to Rebecca for keeping St Michael's [Facebook page](#) active.
- Repairs to the Lychgate (which is a listed War Memorial) will take place during the coming weeks. Access to the Church through the Lychgate will not be possible during the expected 2-week work period. A grant from the War Memorials Trust will cover much of the cost.
- The cancellation of Merry Days and the closure of the Church have had a major impact on Church finances. However we do have sufficient reserves to cover ongoing costs of around £3,000 per month and we are hopeful that further relaxation of present restrictions will enable our normal Church services and activities to resume and for fund-raising to be possible in the autumn. The PCC would like to thank those who have made generous donations.
- To enable cashless electronic giving we have activated a QR code. Anyone who wants to donate and has a reasonably up-to-date smartphone just needs point their phone's camera at the QR code and it will take them to a page where they can make a donation to St Michael's (they choose the amount). The QR code here (opposite) will work and it is also displayed in the church ready for opening next week.



Finally, our thanks to all those who have kept the Churchyard looking so beautiful while our Church has had to be closed – it has been a lovely place for quiet reflection.

***From – the Churchwardens and members of the PCC***

---

11<sup>th</sup> June 2020