



The Parish Church of
St John the Baptist
Church Road,
Egglescliffe,
TS16 9DQ

31st July 2020

Good afternoon everyone

I trust this letter finds you well. Thank you all for your continued love and support for our church community over these last weeks and months. Your financial generosity has allowed us to continue planning our own church mission and has enabled us to meet our parish share pledge to support the work and mission of God in Durham diocese.

I wanted to wait until after our PCC meeting last Tuesday to contact you all with the situation regarding church.

We have been really pleased to open church in the safest way possible on Mondays 10am-12pm and Thursdays 5-7pm. This will continue but everyone visiting must now wear a face covering. Thank you to the team of volunteers who steward this for us.

As for holding any other services in church, the PCC decided that we should not hold any worship at this time due to the very small nature of our church building, which makes adequate social distancing very difficult. The Bishop of Durham has agreed that we can suspend services in our building at least until mid-October. The use of the church for worship will be subject to a monthly review. All of our services will continue as they have been on 'zoom' meetings, on Facebook and YouTube live.

I will be on annual leave on 16th 23rd and 30th August. On those dates the services will be 'service of the Word' and will be held as zoom meetings only on the following link. If you can't access the internet you can dial in on the phone link below using the same meeting passcode.

Meeting ID: 78054917075

Passcode: 12345

Tel: 0442039017895

You will be muted when you join the meeting. Unless you have a part to play could you please remain muted throughout to avoid the distorted sounds that can occur.

Priest in Charge: Reverend Sylvia Wilson 07886852154, email: sylviawilson.stjohns@gmail.com

Administrator: Vanessa Lyons 07375077699, email: stjohnsegglescliffe@gmail.com

www.stjohnthebaptistegglescliffe.co.uk



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We apologise to those who rely on the social media that services will not be available on those dates. They will resume over all platforms on the first week in September with night prayers on Tuesday 1st at 8pm.

We were very sorry to see the time we had with our Youth for Christ gap year worker coming to an end. Bailey had to return to the United States at the beginning of the lockdown. She has been doing regular Zoom meetings with our young people which have gone very well. We are blessed with some amazing children and young people at St John's.

We had hoped to have someone in September to carry on the work that Bailey has been doing but the team will now not be in the country until at least January. We will be looking after our church young people ourselves during that time. The schools work, year 6/7 life groups and Lighthouse after school club will be placed on hold for now.

As ever I am very grateful for the people who have been keeping everyone without internet access in touch with what we are doing. Our building is closed but the church goes on with its work. We would be very grateful if you could respond to the questionnaire at the end of this letter.

With love in Jesus Christ
Sylvia

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The PCC of Egglescliffe has agreed that at this time services cannot safely take place within St John's church building.

To maintain any safe social distancing, we estimate that we could only accommodate 25 people in church. We would need to observe a strict one-way system at all times. We are not permitted to sing or raise our voices whatsoever in the services. We are not permitted to have refreshments in any part of the building. Face coverings must be worn at all times in church. When we do resume worship, we may not kneel at the altar rail but must receive communion at the chancel step with a 2-meter distance between communicants. Communion may only be administered in the bread only. The limited space available and the necessity to clean after every use would mean that the toilet facilities would not be available at this time.

With this in mind:

1. When do you think it would be safe for you to return to services in St John's?
2. Are there any ways that we can serve you as the church family in Egglescliffe?
3. Do you have any suggestions for ways to worship other than in the building?

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Can you please respond via email to sylviawilson.stjohns@gmail.com or get in touch via the telephone;

Sylvia Wilson - 07886852154
Brian Robinson - 07730565788
Dee Wright - 07879621896

Your responses will be important as we discern the way forward together.

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