

Minutes of an extra All Hallows Leadership Team meeting to discuss Sunday services from 19th July

Present:

Martin, Lucy, Heather, Liz and Stephen Baird (for the first part only)

After prayer, Stephen was asked to update us from the perspective of the Truro leadership team: The Truro team would be meeting later this evening to discuss the C of E / Bishops response to 'opening up'. They would not be using a normal venue for 2 weeks, so would have time to consider how they could get the return to normal right for everyone. He expected many subjective views, which potentially could be divisive and the need for reminders of 'loving your neighbour'. He quoted Marc about the need to 'get it right' or not see folk again.

At the Truro Sunday service members were asked to pray about the return; for patience, and love and respect for neighbours.

All Hallows return:

Martin began by summarising comments made on Sunday 18th July:-
restrictions lifted, all looking forward to singing: no booking system: Full details will be given on the church email.

A risk assessment has shown new social distancing will allow up to 120 seats, but some chairs will be empty to allow for bubbles.

In the following discussion, the overwhelming concern was to show a loving and caring approach to all our fellowship and to encourage respect and kindness for those whose views might be different from ours.

There was discussion about masks, including information from both the government website and recent guidance from the C of E. It was decided that we should start cautiously by asking everyone to wear a mask, particularly when singing. It would then be possible to relax this later, when appropriate.

It was suggested that members should be shown to an appropriate seat, filling from the front , and also staying in their bubble.

A visible, laminated notice was also suggested which would WELCOME folk , then highlight 4 main points : hand sanitiser, wearing of masks, wait until a member of the welcome team shows you to your seat and please socialize after the service, preferably outside.

Martin read a draft of the church email, followed by a question and answer section, which is to be sent out from the office asap. The team thoroughly approved the care and concern for others embedded in this guidance; and all appreciated the time and thought given by Martin to 'get it right'. However some of the team felt that an extra sentence about masks would strengthen the argument in favour of wearing them. It was left to Martin to adjust this wording.

Other services, such as communion, would be on the agenda for the next meeting on 26th July.

Martin and Stephen agreed to report back to each other on Tuesday about their respective meetings.