

Notes:

- Here is the schedule of programmes you can catch on the BBC this week:
Sunday Morning Live BBC 1 10.45am
Choral Evensong, King's College - Sunday 3.00pm BBC R 3
Choral Evensong, Chichester Cathedral - Wednesday 3.30pm BBC R 3
Sunday Worship- Sowing In Times of Uncertainty - Sunday 8.10am BBC Radio 4
Songs of Praise 'Eyam' – BBC 1 Sunday 1.15pm
Prayer for the Day – BBC Radio 4 daily at 5.43am
Daily Service – BBC Radio 4 LW daily 9.45am
- Many of you will have heard the news announced on Friday that the government are relaxing lockdown restrictions to allow public worship to resume in churches from Sunday 19th July. This is great news, but, as with the reopening of churches for private prayer, there is a great deal to be discussed and put in place before we can take this step. Please don't think that usual services will simply resume on this date. Please continue to pray for the clergy and wardens as they try to move things forward.
- Holy Trinity Church has had its plan for re-opening for private prayer approved by the Archdeacon. Holy Trinity will be opening at the following times starting this coming week:
Tuesday 10am – 1pm, Thursday 1pm – 4pm and Sunday 3pm – 5pm

Many thanks to all who are making this possible.

- St Mary's Priory continues to open to allow private prayer at the following times: 10am-2pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. A one-way system is in operation and we are allowed to host up to six people at a time.

Please be aware that access to the church is restricted to the prayer area that has been created in the north aisle, and the rest of the church is taped off and out of bounds.

We are currently unable to offer visitors access to view the antiquities and historic tombs. Likewise we are regrettably unable to accommodate church members who normally access cupboards, vestries and other areas. We are not permitted to open our toilets.

At the current time access is being allowed for those who wish to pray and spend time in quiet before God.

We are immensely grateful for your help in respecting these guidelines which are allowing us to open. We are also tremendously grateful to all who are enabling this to happen by stewarding and cleaning.

- The Memorial Garden at St Mary's will be open at the same times as the church to allow people to tend and visit graves.
- The wardens of Christchurch are putting together a risk assessment to submit which would enable Christchurch to open for private prayer on a Thursday.
- We are continuing to Livestream services on the 'Abergavenny Anglican Churches Together' Facebook page. You do not need to have a Facebook account in order to tune in. Simply go to this address and the live-stream should appear at the top of the page when we turn it on 5 minutes before the service: <https://www.facebook.com/AberACT> Previous services are available under the 'videos' tab.

Sunday Parish Mass is at 10.30am

There will be no midweek mass while Fr Tom is on leave. A service of Evensong will be broadcast at 5pm.

- Many thanks to those who are continuing to send their Church giving. If you deliver this to Fr Tom it may be appropriate to start to think about giving this directly to your church treasurer or wardens as Fr Tom and Paul prepare to move to Yorkshire next month.
- If you know that someone is unwell or that they are in need of a pastoral care please tell the clergy.
Anyone requiring the services of a priest is welcome contact Fr Jeff Pearse on 07985241700 or jeff.pearse@hotmail.co.uk
- Fr Tom will be taking some of the leave he needs to use from 13th-24th July. Fr Jeff and Tim Pratt have very kindly agreed to take on the Sunday live-stream.

- A message from Bishop Cherry

Dear Friends,

Firstly, it is good to see that some of the church buildings across our diocese have been able to open for private prayer. This won't be possible for everyone and no-one should feel compelled or pressured to open if the demands of complying with Welsh Government regulations are too great; for whatever reason. Whilst our buildings offer a special and dedicated sacred space for prayer, we are all well aware that we can pray anywhere and have been doing for the past four months. That said, there are many of us who long to return to our church buildings and I am grateful to the Archdeacons and the local churches with whom they have worked for enabling at least some to be open safely.

The latest advice (out today) is that services can resume in churches from July 19th as long as health and safety guidelines can be complied with.

Alongside all this, clergy and congregations will have been considering for some time what of the 'new ways of being' they will want to continue and what of the 'old ways of being' they will wish to discontinue. In the light of what we have learnt (thanks to the lockdown) about the very different ways in which we can be the Body of Christ and fulfill the calling entrusted to us by God, we now have a wonderful opportunity to re-imagine how we go about sharing the good news, growing as disciples, serving our communities and drawing others into a knowledge of God's love for them. Going back to how we were is not an option, not least because the future remains very uncertain in terms of how COVID-19 is going to continue to impact our world for the foreseeable future. But the Good News of Jesus Christ remains unchanged and our task as his Church to share it in the multitude of ways available to us remains undiminished.

May God continue to bless and guide us into being the Church he calls us to be, inspired and equipped by his Holy Spirit to be his agents of love and transformation in the world he created.

+ Cherry