

Dear Friends,

After the announcement earlier this week it seems as though we have grounds for cautious optimism but no complacency. After such a long time of restrictions at church we're excited to start our journey back to normality. While we understand the Government plans to fully relax current Covid restrictions on 19 July, we recognise that there is a high burden of Covid circulating in our area and want to ensure that everyone attending church can do so safely and without undue worry. Over the next two weeks we will be providing further information on how we plan to open up worship in our churches and activities in our halls.

We are looking forward to singing again and relaxing the one way system at St Michael's. While we also plan to move away from having to book in ahead of the service, the configuration of pews will delay this a little at Barnston. We will continue to keep the buildings well ventilated, fogged with disinfectant after use, observe a 1 metre plus guideline, and request that hand sanitiser is used upon arrival. The use of masks is optional, but some may feel more comfortable continuing to wear a face covering for the time being. Since it is possible to meet in church we will no longer broadcast the services but will place the sermons online. The broadcast services have been a real challenge and it will be a relief for the technical teams involved to concentrate on making the in-person services as good as they possibly can be.

In the meantime, we are keen to request your help with the various church services at Christ Church and St Michael's that are essential for enabling us all to join in worshipping God together again. This includes reading, praying, welcoming and refreshments, flowers, sound desk, visuals, Sunday School, and additional cleaning. We hope that everyone can help in some way. Please pass your name on to Ce, with details of the particular area in which you would like to help out.

With love in Jesus,

Chris, Rob, and Anna