

Letter to WSAM churches

9th July 2020

Dear Friends

Very warm greetings from a slightly damp manse - but at least my tomato plants seem to appreciate it!

This Sunday - 12th July - please read carefully!!

The Sunday Bulletin with its order of service, and the 'Sunday at Six' Zoom worship will continue, not just this week but for the foreseeable future. These are important as the means by which we can all keep in touch and worship together safely.

Some, but not all, churches are hoping to be open for short services of worship. These will include no singing and no opportunity to chat; the rules forbid this as it simply isn't safe. They will also be very restricted in who can fit in.

Sadly please, please don't go to a church where you don't usually worship, at least for the next couple of weeks, as we are scratching our heads already trying to fit people in, and don't want to have to turn people away - we have hugely reduced capacity in each building. This may improve, remember we are all on a very steep learning curve!

If you, or anyone you've been with, has any symptoms of Covid-19, or has tested positive in the last 14 days, please don't come out and put others at risk.

And do all please consider seriously whether you should be coming out anyway - we are doing what we can to make our buildings and services safe, but the virus is still around and a venue such as a church where we sit for 30 minutes or more is less safe than somewhere like Sainsburys where we walk around and leave fairly rapidly.

It is not (currently) mandatory to wear a mask in a church service, but it is advisable in any indoor environment such as a church. I will certainly be doing so myself, and would recommend it if you are able to do so, to protect and care for others.

Other News

Dorothy's funeral and burial will take place very quietly at midday on Monday (13th). Please hold her family in prayer. A bigger thanksgiving service is planned, when it is possible to hold it without restrictions.

The URCs 2020 General Assembly had to be cancelled because of the virus, but this Friday there will be a short meeting online - hence I will not be available then. On Saturday from 10.30 to 12 there will be an open meeting of General Assembly, largely consisting of worship, available for all to follow online:

<https://urc.org.uk/latest-news/3520-digital-general-assembly-due-to-take-place>

Have a good weekend, and stay in touch - with each other and with me.

Anne Lewitt

These letters and Bulletins, with some details removed for confidentiality, are now being added to our church websites so that they are more easily and widely accessible.