

All Hallows News



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August 2021

Freedom?

I'm aware that we are not yet in August (by nearly a fortnight), but as I'm going on annual leave this is the last opportunity for me to update you on how we are looking to proceed now that so many laws have been removed.

Many people have been calling 19th July 'Freedom Day' whilst for others it feels more the 'Fear Day'. I keep saying it and I will say it again, we are all at different points on this journey and so we need to be kind and respectful to each other.

Not only that, but at the very heart of our faith is a greater freedom anyway, one that has been there all along and through every lockdown and every restriction that we have had to face over the past year. Jesus died for you and me, so we can be free from our sin and friends with God. That is the greatest news and so we need to keep a right perspective as we take the next steps out of lockdown.

Thank you to those who filled out the little survey a week or so ago, which informed our discussion at PCC this evening (19th July).

We obviously want to bring back more of the elements to our services that we miss, whilst also making sure that people are both *actually* as safe as possible and *feel* as safe as possible.

Of course, since our survey last Sunday the language of advice has hardened and we are now 'expected' to continue to wear masks in crowded indoor settings. We can make a strong case that our services aren't crowded, but there are a number of people so we will err on the side of caution.

That being the case, please can I ask you to continue to wear face coverings at church for the time being?

However, there is a huge caveat that I want to make strongly at this point. It is good for those who struggle to wear masks to excuse themselves from doing

so. There are people who have rightly been exempt already, but there are others who are not exempt but still struggle. This is made even worse by the heat at the moment. Nobody should feel any form of embarrassment for not wearing a mask.

The attitude that I would really encourage us to have is that those who are able to wear masks do so in order to make the whole of church as safe as possible for everybody. We are family and need to support each other as family.

We will be reintroducing singing though, whilst wearing masks. This was the top priority in our survey, followed by ending the use of masks and then ending all physical distancing.

For now, we would ask that only those wearing a mask do sing (other than the band) - but, our aim (subject to all of the usual Covid caveats) is to create an area in the front rows of church for people to be able to be mask free from Sunday,



22nd August. That would mean that people can sing in church without a mask from that point. We will review whether to hold back this stage at the evening service.

We have already moved some chairs back together in church so that people can sit with their friends if they wish to, but we will ensure that there are chairs physically distanced for some time too - to give that option.

The way that we receive Holy Communion will also remain the same at the moment, but again we will review this when we can.

This is our planned way forward. It's far from perfect, but we feel it is the best way to go as we listen to and care for each other. Thanks for your understanding.

God bless,

Paul

New or Visiting?

First Time Here?

If it's your first time here then welcome! It's great to have you with us. Here are a few short notes that you might find helpful.

Relax - You're our guest, so make yourself at home. If there is anything that you would like to know then ask a member of the Welcome Team.

Sign the kids in - The Welcome Team can show you where to take your children. Sometimes we are all in church together, but on other weeks...

Pre-School; you choose! Either stay in the service (don't worry about noise) OR use our Crèche Room at the back of church. **Ages 3+**; Sunday School meet in rooms at the end of the hall, down the ramp. All leaders have proper DBS checks.

Fill in a Communication Card - Drop it in the box on the Welcome Desk in the foyer or give it to the service leader on the way out. Please use it to ask questions, offer feedback or request prayer.

We don't expect guests to give - For those who are members or regular attenders of our churches there is usually an offering, but we don't ask our guests for any money.

We have a Loop System - Switch your hearing aid to T-coil. You might find it useful to sit towards the middle.

Hang around afterwards - Come and join us for a cup of tea or fresh coffee, and for a chat.

Prayer Ministry - If you would like somebody to pray with you about something for yourself or somebody that you know then there are people who would love to do so after the service. Please make yourself known to the service leader

Next Steps

We are all on a journey through life, and our faith is no different. Depending upon where you are on your journey with God here are some 'Next Steps' you could take

COMMIT YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST
Commit to follow Jesus today!

RE-COMMIT TO CHRIST
It's never too late for a fresh start with faith.

DECLARE YOUR FAITH THROUGH BAPTISM
If you feel you've made a commitment to God but have never been baptised, then this could be a great step for you.

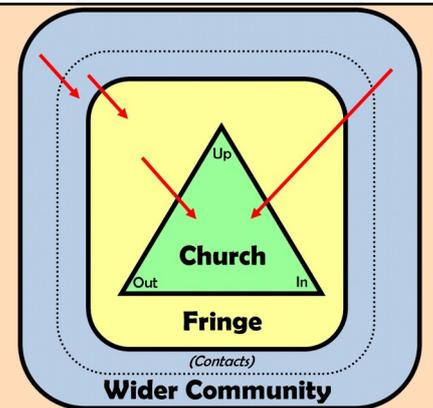
JOIN A HOMEGROUP
If you're not in one, there are a number of groups that meet in homes throughout the week to get to know each other better, look at the Bible and pray together.

BE PART OF THE MISSION
There are lots of ways you can use your gifts to serve God, his Church and the wider community.

Loving God.

Loving each other.

Loving the people of Cheadle.



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