

The Parish of Halas

Together in Christ

CRADLEY HALESOWEN HASBURY LAPAL ROMSLEY



Dear friends in Halas,

It's all change again. We were beginning to settle to a new lockdown normal having, after three months, developed new routines, new habits, new ways of socializing, worshipping and now the markers have been moved as shops, churches, businesses begin to open and schools welcome various year groups through the week.

If you're feeling unsettled, anxious, tired, overwhelmed, it's good to remember that what seem like small changes, have an impact. With things opening up, perhaps it feels as though the danger is increasing and you and your loved ones are more at risk? Perhaps you're one of those people who is thrilled that you can now go to Merry Hill, suitably masked of course, and be part of the buzz of life slowly resuming. Perhaps, like others, you're not much worried about the virus and its spread. What will be, will be.

We need to be patient with one another and to respect the decisions our friends and family may make that may not be our decisions. That will be hard for us all.

Churches are opening for private prayer, and our Halas churches should all have been opened at some point in the coming week and they will continue to be open at designated times for private prayer. Our churchwardens and others have worked hard to get the risk assessments done and the spaces organized for one way systems, sanitizer points, etc. etc. These are not moments to come and meet friends, but to privately pray in our sacred spaces. The stewards will be strict about numbers coming in and keeping physical distance and silence in the churches. Please be patient with one another and respect the Stewards' requests, we are all learning on the job and we are keen to keep the places as safe as possible for everyone.

St Peter's Cradley is opening Tuesdays 8.30am to 10am and Saturdays 10am to 12pm.

St Peter's Lapal is still working on suitable opening times.

St Margaret's Hasbury is opening on Sundays 11.30am to 1pm and Wednesdays 5.30 – 6.30pm.

St John's Halesowen is opening on Saturdays 11am to 1pm.

St Kenelm's Romsley is too small to be open in this way, but it will be open on request if possible. The DCC is looking into having the worship space in the Hall open.

All our churches will be open for funerals. These will have to follow all the guidelines on physical distancing, etc. We have our own risk assessments and will conform to those of the Funeral Directors.

Many of you have been praying for Karen Chaplin who has been exploring a vocation to ordained ministry these last two and a half years. She was able to attend a virtual Bishops Advisory Panel and was not recommended for training. This has come as a relief to Karen who feels that she is called by God to do what she is already doing and now she can focus on that. Having said that, Karen has valued the process of the last two years and found the reading, reflecting, questioning, praying a very enriching process. I know many of us will be disappointed by this outcome because we recognise the valuable ministry Karen has among us. We are delighted that she now feels able to continue her Licensed Lay Ministry among us with more time and energy. Do listen to or read her Thought for the Week this week, which will give you a flavour of how she is moving on from the discernment process.

With our love,

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