

Worshipping in our church buildings once again

We are delighted that we have been able to start to hold services within our church buildings once again. Capacity is limited, so people need to reserve a place – please see guidelines below.

To make sure that we reopen our churches for worship in a manageable and safe way, we are building this up very slowly. We recognise that a lot of people will be unable or unsure about attending, so we will also continue to live stream.

Over July and August, we have now managed to hold services in four of our larger churches, and although very different in lots of ways – as we sit socially distanced from one another with our masks on, listening to music rather than singing, with liberal use of hand gel – people have said how lovely it is to be able to come together physically once again to worship God. And it has been wonderful to know that there are others worshipping with us in their homes through the live stream. Thank you to those who have come for sticking to the guidelines – it is hugely appreciated!

So now we progress to **phase two** of our plan, and from September, there will also be an evening service held in one of our smaller churches. The ministry team have tossed ideas back and forth, and tried all sorts of variants, but the pattern we have settled on is:

Sunday	Morning service	Evening service
First Sunday	10 am - Holy Communion - Stratton Audley	6 pm – Said BCP Evensong with music to listen to – Hardwick
Second Sunday	10 am - Holy Communion – Fringford	4 pm – BCP Holy Communion - Cottisford
Third Sunday	10 am - Holy Communion - Stoke Lyne	2 pm – from October – Muddy Church – outside somewhere!
Fourth Sunday	10 am - Holy Communion- Finmere	6 pm – Compline with music and reflective readings – Newton Purcell or Godington

There will be some variants later in the autumn as we plan for All Souls and Remembrance Sunday, but we will let you know about these in due course.

As we start to worship once again in the smaller churches, it will be even more important to book your place so that we can plan the seating and ensure everyone is as safe as can be.

In **phase three** we will introduce a second morning service, ensuring that there is a communion service and a service of the word every Sunday morning.

Especially for children and families

Children and young people are, of course, very welcome at any of our services. Young children will need to be supervised by their parents or guardians to ensure they stick to the guidelines on the next page.

From September our children and families worker will run a 30 min Zoom session for the Little Lambs Parent and Toddler Group, including a story, craft and song. We do not envisage Little Lambs starting back at Stratton Audley church before January 2021.

And from October, we will be embarking on a monthly ‘Muddy Church’ – for all ages, this will take place outside. Details to follow.

Our children and families worker will maintain links with the schools and with Fringford preschools with a view to restarting the after school clubs when this becomes possible.