

Churches open for private prayer and quiet reflection

Most of our churches are now open for private prayer and quiet reflection on at least one day a week. The PCC for each parish has considered carefully how much they can reopen and still maintain as safe an environment as possible for you when you visit. Several are just opening on Sundays or at weekends at this stage, which minimises the antiviral cleaning that they need to do. Others are opening every day, and will be doing an antiviral spray or wipe down at the end of each day.

Many of the folk who would normally help with church cleaning are currently advised not to, due to being considered vulnerable or having underlying health conditions. We are enormously grateful to those from our local villages who have volunteered to help out at this time. Thank you!

When you go to visit one of the churches, do take note of the advice that will be displayed:

- please wear a face covering
- please don't go in if you or a member of your household has symptom of Covid 19
- please use the hand sanitiser that will be available
- please avoid touching more than you need
- please observe social distancing

And don't be surprised if it looks a little different from when you were last there! Following the advice given by the Government and the Church of England, most of the churches have roped or taped off areas of the church to reduce the need to disinfect them at the end of the day. There probably won't be any cushions or kneelers, and all the hymn books and prayer books will have been moved. You may want to take your own prayer book or devotional materials along with you.

But don't let that put you off! Many of us have found that it has been a joy to re-enter our church buildings. They are special places, where the centuries of prayer seems to have soaked into the stonework, and where God can seem especially near.

So when are they open? See below:

Cottisford	Sundays	10 – 6
Finmere	daily	10 – 5 (11 – 5 on Sundays)
Fringford	daily	9 - 6
Godington	Saturdays and Sundays	9 – 5
Hardwick	daily	10 – 6
Hethe	Sundays	10 – 6
Newton Purcell	Sundays	10 - 6
Stoke Lyne	Saturdays and Sunday	10 - 6
Stratton Audley	daily	10 – 5

Mixbury will not be opening at the present time as they hope to be embarking on major building works very imminently.

Alice Goodall