



## **Tier 4 Service Provision**

*January 2021*

### **INTRODUCTION**

With the recent government announcement placing our Benefice within Tier 4 Coronavirus restrictions the Church Wardens and the Curate have reviewed what provision we can offer the churches of the benefice at this time. Although we are legally allowed to be open for public worship, the restrictions we face bear a striking resemblance to those enforced in March 2020 when churches had to shut their buildings, and there has been an increase in infections in our local area.

With these factors in mind, as well as our congregations containing a number of people that would be classified as “vulnerable” to COVID-19 by the government including those who volunteer to keep our churches ‘COVID secure’ the decision has been made to close the church buildings for the majority of services and to offer an online alternative via Zoom. We say majority of services because we acknowledge that for some there is a need for church, not just spiritually, but also for their own well-being. We also acknowledge that not everyone will be able or willing to go online for church services and so we will be offering limited in-person services which we believe we can keep COVID secure.

Given the ever-changing risk of COVID-19 and the prospect of a vaccine coming to members of our congregations imminently the service provision for the benefice will be reviewed every month with updates coming via our e-Newsletter. If you have not subscribed to our e-Newsletter then please do get in touch with our Benefice Administrator via email ([benadmin@chwchurches.co.uk](mailto:benadmin@chwchurches.co.uk)) or telephone (07850 415459).

### **SERVICE PATTERN**

What follows is the service pattern for January 2021 and, if the wider situation regarding COVID-19 does not change beforehand, the subsequent months of the year.

In light of our services moving for the most part online we would offer the following pattern of services:

<b>Week 1:</b>	09:00 10:30	Zoom Sunday Breakfast Holy Communion (in-person)
<b>Week 2:</b>	10:30	Zoom Service (Traditional music)
<b>Week 3:</b>	10:30	Zoom Service (Contemporary music)
<b>Week 4:</b>	10:30	Zoom Spiritual Communion (Traditional music)
<b>Week 5:</b>	10:30	Zoom Benefice Service

The in-person Holy Communion service would change location each month in alphabetical order (i.e. Coxley, Henton, Wookey) starting with Coxley in January.

Zoom Sunday Breakfast would stay as it is with a quiz, fellowship, and an opportunity to be creative each month.

The Zoom services would take a similar format to our in-person services. The liturgy would be displayed on the screen or would be available to download from our website before the service. Music would either be pre-recorded by musicians in the benefice or would be taken from another audio recording with lyrics displayed on the screen for people to sing along with in their own homes.

Spiritual Communion is a form of service that acknowledges that God is far beyond our rituals and can meet with us and unite us in the body of Christ without the need for the elements of bread and wine so whilst the majority of the time we are unable to gather physically, there is still an opportunity to be united and receive the same benefits of communion without the need for bread and wine.

## **PARTING WORDS**

This is a difficult time for all of us, and in many ways this Tier 4 lockdown feels like it is having a greater impact on our lives than the first lockdown did. Revd Guy will be updating the resources available on our website in due course and do check the website regularly for updates. We hope that you will take the opportunity to join us online to worship if you can over the coming weeks so that you can stay safe during these uncertain times assured that Christ is with us wherever we are and however we choose to meet. We look forward with great anticipation to the day when we can meet together once more to sing songs of joyous praise to our God who loves us, who seeks us out, and who never abandons on us.

May God bless all of us this year.