



*Rev Simon Tillotson MA
The Vicarage
Church Street
Whitstable CT5 1PG
England
United Kingdom
+44 1227 272308*



All Saints, Whitstable

St Peter's, Whitstable

8th September 2020

Dear all

I thought a letter would be the best way of communicating recent developments here at All Saints Whitstable. Our last garden service is this Sunday at 11am, 13th September. If the weather is inclement we will move into the church. It has been great to have had such a wonderful event happening each week and thank you so much for all the positive feedback.

Then from 20th September we are moving to an 8am, 9.30am and 2.30pm service structure at All Saints to allow plenty of room for people to sit two metres apart in any direction. They will all have Holy Communion at the request of the congregation following a discussion with the garden congregation last week. Wearing facemasks in church is compulsory also for the protection of all present.

The priest wears a mask and visor while the host (bread) is distributed and hand gel is used both by the priest and by the congregation before the host (bread) is distributed. Before that, the bread remains completely covered over so there is no risk of infection. We have been running Holy Communion services twice a week for seven weeks now and everyone who has come feels perfectly safe.

Obviously if the risks rise in this part of Kent I am sure the Church of England will rethink things but we still have a low transmission rate in East Kent so I believe this is as safe as we can be.

Of course, it is fine to just come and not receive Holy Communion if you prefer that but when you observe how it is done you will I think feel a great deal more reassured. Each one has been a deeply spiritual event and I am sure this will continue to be the case.

For those who feel that they are unable to attend a church service at the moment, or for those who do attend but also appreciate additional worship, the online service will continue at 11am on Sunday. However, I am afraid that due to time constraints this is now being scaled back simply to two hymns, a bible reading, a sermon and prayers as from this Sunday 13th September. This should still very much be worth participating in, but with more and more things happening in the week, time forbids me from creating and editing a longer video each week. I still think you will find it very much worth watching and we have a good selection of preachers and intercessors taking part in the online service in the coming months.

The church continues to be open for visitors on Saturday mornings from 10am to 12 noon (please arrive at the latest by 11.45am). We also have our Healing Communion on Thursdays at 10am every week which also continues to be popular.

Please let me know if you would like a pastoral visit at home, using social distancing and face masks. I can visit and we also have other people in the congregation who are able to do this.

Team Vicar of St Peter's and All Saints churches in the Whitstable Team ministry

Email: tillotsons@googlemail.com

Website: www.allsaintswhitstable.com

Finally, at our Finance Committee meeting last Friday we looked at our finances as a church. By the end of this year All Saints is forecasting a drop of income compared to our usual annual year total of £41,000.

These losses are as follows:

Plate offerings losses £5000 (these are the cash gifts we receive on Sundays and other services such as weddings and baptisms)

Planned Savings losses £6000 (these are the envelope and direct debit gifts we receive)

Hall rental losses £17,000 Property income losses £2000 Wedding fees losses £4000

Fundraising activities losses £5000 Gift Aid losses £3000

We urgently need to replenish our General Fund which stands currently at £32,113.

As it is highly unlikely we will be able to run our normal Fireworks and Christmas Fair in the usual way the Finance Committee met last night to discuss various ideas for Fundraising.

One idea is to involve as many people as possible in a Sponsored Walk activity.

We decided as a Finance Committee last night to arrange a Sponsored Walk from Whitstable to Canterbury.

This Sponsored Walk will happen on All Saints Day on 1st November 2020 leaving the church at 11am, stopping for a packed lunch en route, and aiming to arrive at Canterbury for about 3pm.

We are making this a relatively short distance sponsored walk to encourage more people to take part.

Dogs are of course welcome too as we will not be going into the Cathedral. Please bring good waterproofs as the event will happen regardless of the weather. **Please let me know if you would like a sponsorship form by emailing me at simon@teamvicar.org or sending me a text to 07833 448287.** It should be a lot of fun.

Give a gift to All Saints Whitstable

Some of you may choose to give a donation now to help All Saints. If you have appreciated the ministry of All Saints Whitstable at some point in the past, and are grateful for its continuing ministry now, or if you simply are a well wisher wanting to help the church financially, then you can give online if you wish.

Please make your payment to the following account

Account Name: All Saints Whitstable DCC

Account No.: 14372360 Sort Code: 30-99-61

International Codes if you live overseas

BIC: LOYDGB21533 IBAN: GB41 LOYD 3099 6114 3723 60

Alternatively cheques payable to All Saints Whitstable DCC can be sent to us at

The Treasurer All Saints Church Office
Church Street Whitstable CT5 1PG

We are very grateful to you for your kind donations.

Please remember to let us know you are making a gift so we can thank you for it.

Yours sincerely



Rev Simon Tillotson

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