



ST DONARD'S CHURCH OF IRELAND

September 2020

Dear Friends

My last letter to you was back at the beginning of July to announce our return to Church and to worshipping together. It has been wonderful to be back and to be meeting again in the Church building. Our congregations over July and August have been very encouraging; between 70 and 80 people each week coming along, with many more joining us online each Sunday. I am conscious of some still being understandably reluctant to meet together in Church in these difficult times, but I want you to know that we will still be streaming the services live each Sunday so that as many as possible can join with us in worship and be part of our worshipping Church family. I am so grateful to the 'Tech Team' who have worked so patiently over these many weeks so that all can be included. Whether in Church or online I hope you feel very much part of the family of St Donard's.

I am writing now to let you know the shape of things in the coming months. It's not been easy to plan ahead - as I'm sure you are aware, things can change very quickly given the nature of this Coronavirus however, this is how I hope we can proceed, given the regulations we must follow in order to keep everyone safe.



Sunday Worship – September to December

Morning Service at 11am (in church)

Continuing with our present format

Evening Service at 7pm (in the Parish Centre) **Starting on Sunday 20th September**

This will be a short, informal service following the order of The Late Evening Office.

The number of people we can accommodate in Church is limited, as we keep to the guidelines on social distancing. The Meeting Room in the Parish Centre is set up to accommodate a small number of people if needed as an overspill facility; however, it may be on occasions, if we have reached our maximum number, that you may be asked to go home and think about coming to the evening service on that particular Sunday. **If this happens, I hope you will understand and be patient as we try to work through the difficult situation we are in.**



Sunday School – starts back – Sunday 13th September – 11am

Children go straight into the Main Hall

We're looking forward to welcoming children back into Sunday School – however, it'll be a little bit different this year.

New material – The children will be following new teaching material called 'Xstream'

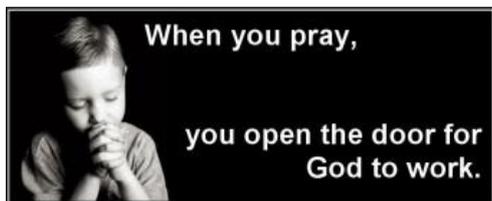
New format - As numbers in Church are limited, we're asking parents to **leave children directly into the Main Hall** rather than coming into church first. The children will have a short worship time of their own in the Hall before starting Sunday School lessons.

All safety precautions will be taken – hand sanitizers, individual pencil cases etc.

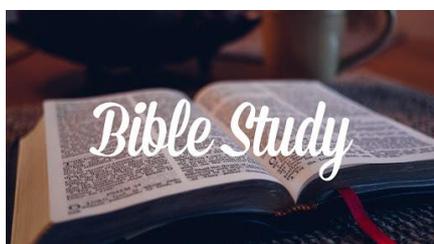
CRECHE – Creche resumes also on Sunday 13th September – this will be in the Vestry Room (just off the church) not in the Meeting Room. Just before the end of the Church service, parents will be able to **collect their children from the Hall and creche and leave by the Parish Centre doors.**

CHURCH GROUPS

At the time of writing, our Church Groups and Uniformed Organizations will not be meeting until further notice. Will keep you posted.



However There will be an opportunity to pray! **The Hub Prayer Group** will meet again on **Friday 25th September at 11am in the Meeting Room**
Everyone is welcome – socially distanced of course



MIDWEEK MEETING....!!

From October

With our Small Groups not meeting at the moment there'll be an opportunity from October to come together in the Parish Centre for a socially distanced group Bible Study. Details to follow.



Welcome – Rev Andy Hay

Andy was ordained recently and will be spending his Intern Deacon year with us in St Donard's. Andy is married to Jackie and has two daughters. He is still a full-time teacher and so will be with us on a part-time basis only, but we look forward to his ministry.



Samaritan's Purse – Shoebox Appeal

Same appeal – but you have different options this year

- a) Pack a box as usual and leave at back of church
- b) Or you can go online – www.samaritans-purse.org.uk and select 'shoebox online' and follow the directions
Cost is £20 including £5 shipping fee
- c) Give £20 as a direct donation online to send a pre-packed box
- d) Place £20 in an envelope and put it in the box for freewill offering envelopes at Church. Mark it 'Shoebox Appeal' and we will transfer it to the Appeal

I hope this keeps you informed as to what is happening in the coming weeks, as best we can. Thank you for your continued faithfulness to God and His Church during this time.

I am carrying out pastoral visiting, adhering to all the guidelines – mask, hand sanitizing, two metre distance etc. So please feel free to contact me at any time. (9065 2321).

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