

United Benefice of Batley



Dear Friends,

We are looking forward to welcoming you back into our church buildings across the Benefice this month.

There has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes, with the warden teams, to prepare our churches and make sure we comply with Church of England and Government Regulations. We will do everything we can do to make coming to church as safe as possible. I am sure you will join me in thanking the warden teams for all their hard work, as well as Graeme Rayner for the excellent job he does for our online worship - this will continue alongside physical worship for the time being.

The opening of the Benefice churches will be as follows - there will be one service in each church in the month of August. Whichever church you normally worship in, you are welcome at any or all of these services - all are welcome at all of our Benefice churches:

All Saints - 9 August 11am (Holy Communion)

St Paul's - 16 August 11 am

St Thomas - 23 August 9.30 am

St Andrew's - 30 August 9.30am (Holy Communion)

Opening each of the Benefice churches on one Sunday of the month in August will allow Mark and myself to be able to oversee the safety measures being taken in each church and give time to review the approaches taken and make any changes that may be needed before we open more regularly.

Please make your own decision as to whether to come to church, or to worship online if you have access to the internet.

Please do not come to church if you have any of the symptoms of Covid, which are:

high temperature;

new, continuous cough; or

a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

In this case, please stay at home, ring 111 to arrange a test and self-isolate. Similarly, if you are waiting for Covid test results, or have been told to isolate by NHS Track and Trace do not come to church, until you have been given the all clear.

Each church will have different procedures in place depending on type of service and layout of our buildings. The arrangements for this coming Sunday's service at All Saints (Sunday 9th) are set out on the attached sheet.

We appreciate this a lot of information, and clergy and wardens will be on-hand to guide you and welcome you back. We are very much looking forward to seeing you, and these steps are all with one aim in mind - keeping us all safe.

We look forward to seeing you.

God bless.

Fr. Martin

