



Dear Church Families,

22 July 2020

*'Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.'* (Psalm 91:1)

Four months on since the Covid-19 virus prompted the closure of Sunday services, we continue to praise God for the many ways we have seen his care for our churches and others in our local areas too. Lockdown has brought many frustrations and hardships, especially for some. But it has also given us many new things to praise the Lord for too. We have seen him sustaining his people, growing love across our church families, giving us new opportunities to serve neighbours, and drawing newcomers in to watch and listen to our remote services too.

Meeting as gathered congregations is one of the Lord's greatest 'means of grace' to his people, through which he grows our faith and makes us more like Jesus. So we are absolutely delighted that we can now begin to hold services on Sundays again. Arborfield and Barkham Churches will be doing this from the end of July, Christ Church Wokingham at St Crispin's School from the start of August, and Church at the Green at the Arborfield Green Community Centre at the start of September. Full details (including, where necessary, how to book places at the services) are available on each church's pages on the website. Please do read these carefully before coming along; things are going to be very different for a while!

Please continue to pray for wisdom and great care as we make, and then adjust, plans for these services. Pray that the Lord would give us all a deep longing to gather again to worship him and encourage one another, especially when so many of us have now got into the habit of following virtual services from the comfort of our own homes. Pray that we'd be patient when so much about these meetings will feel so very different. Pray for those with young children, as they adjust to the lack of children's groups for a while. Pray that we might see new people from our local areas coming to join us too. And please pray that it won't be long before we're able to sing his praises together too!

Of course we recognize that, for all sorts of good reasons, some in our church families won't be able to join with their brothers and sisters on Sundays for now. So each of our churches will continue to make virtual services available on-line and in other ways. Please pray that the Lord will continue to use these to keep and grow those who are his, and to draw others to himself as well. And pray that we'd continue to love one another, and others, well in the months to come, particularly as many of our online midweek church activities pause over the summer.

Many thanks, as ever, for all your partnership in the gospel. And please don't hesitate to be in touch with us if there is anything that we can do.

With very much love in Christ,

Piers, Andy, Julian, Mark, and David