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Dear Friends,

**Where next for worship in our churches as we begin to open up?**

Over these last 18 months we have all had to negotiate huge changes in the way we support one another and in the way we worship together. We have been very fortunate that we have been able to keep in contact with everyone through our use of e-mail, phone and letter. We are equally fortunate that technology came to our rescue too, in terms of the use of Zoom which has meant that our congregations have formed friendships in new ways, that were not possible before, and the offer from Derby Community Radio to produce a service every week. Our thanks to Nick Northover who produced the programme for us faithfully every week (I'm going to come back to Radio broadcasting later). However, there are new factors which need to be taken into account which are, (from September): a likely move for Aron Simpson to new parishes for him to continue his ministry elsewhere; less availability from Mary, Paul, Ian; fewer musicians to lead at both churches; and my continued role as Acting Archdeacon of Derby to the end of the year. Added to this I will take over responsibility for St Andrews Radbourne from 1<sup>st</sup> August, after Revd Jane Legh's retirement.

Taking all these factors into account, and also thinking about how we can have greater lay involvement and leadership (as part of Setting God's People Free which both churches have been working on), the staff team and I put the following proposal for **our main worship on Sunday mornings** to a joint PCC on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

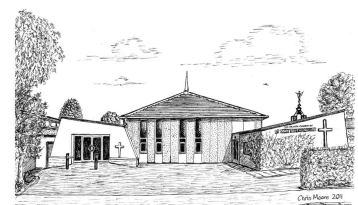
The new pattern is for both churches to hold their main service of worship at **10.00am**, with **one** church each week holding a Holy Communion, alternating St Johns/All Saints, (legally a benefice has to offer a minimum of one service of Holy Communion on Sundays). On Sundays when HC is not being offered, a morning service (without communion) would be offered (similar to Morning Praise (SJ) or 11.15am Morning Service (AS)). This would mean that at least twice a month we can offer a time for baptisms to take place once Covid19 seating restrictions are removed. On the fifth Sunday of the month, we could offer a combined Mickleover Anglicans HC alternating at each church. A typical month could look like this:

	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
All Saints	10.00 HC	8.30am Breakfast Church? 10.00 Morning Service	10.00 HC	10.00 Morning Service and or Baptisms	10.00 MA HC alternating SJ/AS
St Johns	10.00 Morning Service and or Baptisms	10.00 HC	10.00 Morning Service	10.00 HC 4pm TTOS?	
St Andrews Radbourne		11.00 BCP HC		3pm (winter) 5pm (summer) BCP EP	

I want to emphasise that this proposal affects our **main offering of worship** on Sunday mornings. It does not preclude other services taking place in due course as we can put the resources in to support them.



'No perfect people here'  
 God's love transforming lives



This would mean that the 8am service at St Johns and the 11.15am service at All Saints would stop. At AS we will probably keep the robed servers and procession with the cross for HC at Holy Communion for the time being. Music would be organ or through video playing when there are no other live musicians to lead. The choice of music will combine the best of old and new.

We recognise that technology has helped us open our doors wider, so when we were able to get the technology in place, then we will either – record a service, which would be uploaded for broadcast through our website, Facebook or Youtube for viewing later, or, livestream one of the 10am services each week. This provision to livestream or record and upload services which can be watched later I know will be welcomed by congregation members who may not be able to get out on Sunday morning to worship.

### **Radio broadcasts**

Because of a rapid change of direction in the leadership of DCR with a new emphasis on playing only music and aiming at a specific younger audience, Nick has moved on. He is working towards launching a new local community radio in the Autumn, and he would like to resume recording of services if we so wish. We will of course let you know when/if we are able to make these recordings again.

### **Options for reaching out to families**

Over the years we have actively considered whether having a monthly Sunday breakfast church would work to help families to interact. Messy Church on a Tuesday after School is an attractive option because it provides food for hungry kids after school. But could we advertise a monthly Breakfast Church and offer something similar in terms of food to 'Who let the Dads out?' This would be held in the AS Centre/St Johns Hall and would be between 8.30am to 9.30am.

Holding a breakfast church would require a similar level of commitment in terms of a team, as for Messy Church. At St Johns, this might prove more attractive than holding an afternoon Tea-Time on Sunday but there are practical considerations in terms of getting ready for after service refreshments 'breakfast'.

### **Midweek Communion**

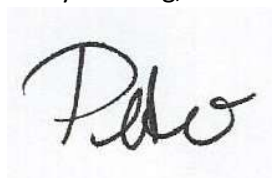
We are aware that the opportunity to have a quiet service on a Sunday is valued by some. Whilst the restrictions are in place which mean we cannot sit together, holding a quiet mid-week HC in the Chancel pews at All Saints hasn't been possible. However, I would like to propose that this service does come back at a date to be decided but alternates between St Johns and All Saints at a common time to be agreed (probably 9.30am)

### **When will the changes to our main act of worship in church take place?**

Both PCCs have broadly welcomed and supported these proposals and in order for preparations to be made, the proposal is to change over from the first Sunday in September. We are committed to jointly reviewing the arrangements after 6 months. As I said above, none of what we are proposing precludes ideas for other worship on Sundays, but it all depends on teams being formed to bring this about.

I commend these things to everyone and ask for your prayers as we move forward. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any queries.

Every blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter', is written on a light-colored background.