



All Saints' Church

Preston on Tees

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Dear Church members

Services in Church and Online in September and October.

“It is more difficult to organise peace than to win a war” said Aristotle, but then he never dealt with bringing church services together during lockdown.

We have all had a steep learning curve during this past month as we tried to run services in the building and online. We haven't always got it right, and we are sorry for any confusion and extra work caused.

We are so grateful to God for the amazingly gifted people who have helped us to produce services online over the lockdown months – leaders, preachers, musicians, technical folk, and administrators – your skills and patience have kept us aware of God's presence with us as we sing a new song in the strange lands of our living rooms. A heartfelt Thank You to you all!

So it is unsurprising that after the challenges of the current situation people are tired and we need grace and rest. We have now had a chance to discuss together honestly how we want to *be* as God's family together and what is sustainable and are grateful to Paul for helping us focus.

PCC reviewed services this month and has voted to spend substantially on equipment for live streaming and training a small team to do this. The installation and training will be done by Adam Burns who does this professionally.

To give us a chance to enter this new phase well, we need to pare back the services online and live to one structured service. This service will be at 9 am but will have sung worship leaders from the whole team, and the fourth Sunday of the month will involve our older children and young people.

There will inevitably be questions about this, but we hope that this will actually simplify things for the time-being. We are one Body in Christ so we hope that this is something that you can bear with as we learn this new way of *being* together.

This October, we ask you, church family, to act with grace and love towards each other. Jesus repeatedly reminded his close disciples to love one another, repeatedly because it hard to do, and we can be negative so easily, especially when we are tired.

Yours in Christ

Karen Killick & Martin Howard

Churchwardens