



Statement in response to government announcement on reopening of places of worship.

Wadsley Church loves it's members, our parish and the wider community. It is for this reason that we want to be clear not only about our plan from July 4th onwards, but also about the reasons for this plan.

Apologies to anyone who has been waiting for a response from the church in response to the recent announcement about places to worship. As we're sure you can appreciate, a response to an announcement of this nature requires a lot of planning and prayer by the church leadership. That said, we understand that Wadsley Church is a place of comfort for a lot of people, and in these particularly uncertain and, for many, scary times, it is not our intention to remain quiet.

To clarify, our current position is as follows:

- We currently do not feel in a position to open the church buildings for Sunday worship or private bookings **with the exception of weddings and funerals.**
- Our current intention is to remain this way until **September 1st**, although this may be subject to review and change, as the as-yet unknown pattern of the Covid-19 outbreak emerges.
- When we do re-open the premises, it will be with a cautious approach that minimises the risk to our community.

There are several reasons why we have reached this decision:

- Our absolute priority is the welfare - both physical and mental - of those who use our premises. One person's feeling of safety may not be another's and it is important that when the church buildings do reopen, they are a place of peace for all concerned. We have a duty to ensure that a re-opening is done responsibly and with due care and attention.
- It will take a lot of work to get the buildings and systems ready for any activity which gathers people together. Particularly for an organisation that relies heavily on voluntary work. This process will take time.
- After an initial assessment of the government and Church of England guidelines, we feel that any Sunday services that we could offer would provide a severely limited worship experience for a limited number of people, whilst our online services are accessible to most people and are providing a great time of worship.
- Our church welcomes all, and this means that there are a large number of people with a range of vulnerabilities passing through our doors each week. We need to make sure not only that risk assessments are in place for this, but also that it is practically feasible. This also requires a great deal of organisation, which in turn takes a great deal of time.

We are also learning. We are learning how to function as a family when meeting face to face is difficult or not possible. We are learning how to reach as many people as possible with the incredible news of Jesus and to minister to those in need when the need is more difficult to find. We realise that we will make mistakes and we will (hopefully) learn from them. But as was stated at the beginning, one thing that has not changed is our love for our community. Please trust that we are doing everything we can with you in mind.

If you are feeling isolated, please get in touch - we are sorry we've missed you. If you are part of a small group, please keep in touch and ask for help from your leaders. If you are not but would like to be, please talk to anyone on our leadership team who will gladly assist. If you need prayer for anything, big or small, please contact us on 07599433440.

Regarding private bookings, use of the church hall and mid-week prayers and services we will let you know when we are opening for these as soon we have decided that it is safe to do so - we miss our campus being a place full of life, and cannot wait to open our doors again! Due to the amount of work that it would take to make the hall safe for our users combined with the types of activities that the hall is used for opening it up is currently unfeasible.

We are excited about Wadsley Festival taking place at the end of August and we are hoping that it will be possible for a portion of this to take place in the Wadsley Church grounds. Please keep checking our website and Facebook page for updates regarding the festival plans.

If you have any questions, please contact us on info@wadsleychurch.com, through our website or on the number above.

God bless and stay safe