



Covid-19 – Use of Places of Worship

From 13th June 2020 places of worship are permitted to open for individual prayer. The government are considering, subject to scientific advice, how to allow wider use of places of worship, but this is not expected to be earlier than 4th July 2020.

In the light of this government advice, Hockley & Hawkwell Methodist Church Council met on Zoom on Monday 15th June to consider whether we could reopen the Church for private prayer as of now, or for worship after 4th July,

It was decided that – having regard to the arrangements and restrictions that would be needed and the likely numbers of people wanting the facility – it would not be practical to open the Church for private prayer at present. It was also felt that, also having regard to the arrangements and restrictions that would be needed, the number of Church members still shielding and the format that worship would have to take, it would be neither practical or desirable to reopen Church for public worship on 4th July unless government guidance changed before then.

These conclusions apply to the whole premises so there is no immediate prospect of any activities recommencing in the Hall.

We will continue with our Zoom Service, Social Chat and Quizzoom for the foreseeable future as these meet the needs of a significant proportion of our members and friends.

To meet the needs of members and friends who do not have access to the internet or feel that they do not want to participate via Zoom, we will be looking at the possibility of pastoral visits to their gardens by small groups of members and friends. Pastoral visitors will be in touch with members of their pastoral groups to see if they would like this face -to-face contact and to make arrangements for a visit (subject to the weather). Visits will comply with social distancing guidelines.

18th June 2020