

Church Family Newsletter 14th August 2020

Dear Church Family,

I hope you have been coping with the heat these past few days! We have spent the past week working out what services might look like from September and I wanted to let you know some of our thoughts...

Back to Church Survey, the results!

Thanks to the 65 households who were able to fill this out, it has been hugely helpful for our planning...

a few highlights to share:

- People were generally fairly concerned still about the coronavirus.
- People were either fairly keen, or fairly cautious to go back into church, very few were neutral.
- A significant number of people are not comfortable being inside together still, and the distancing and masks make it less likely people will want to come back into the church building.
- Families overwhelmingly prefer the idea of outside Sunday School.

What's next?

It was lovely to be back in church for our first Sunday last week for readings and prayers together. So uplifting to be in a space together looking to God in reflections and worship. We are aware though that for a number of people who either don't feel able or comfortable to come into the building, and for those who have children, we need to do more. We are also aware that if everyone came back at Frant, we would not be able to fit everyone in with social distancing.

Since the survey Ed and myself have been chatting to a number of families to gauge what we might do with children from September. As one family responded, we need it to be better than the well-received online services!

We are thinking outside the box for this one, we are having to... we are aware that this new normal might last for several months, and possibly will include Christmas. (I saw this week many pantos cancelled already... how depressing...)

As such we are looking into the possibility of an additional weekly outside service which can include those from both churches who would value it. It will be on church land where we don't need to mask, and where the Covid danger is reduced. More like a mix between a church service, a pub garden and a festival! Probably on Sunday afternoons from 4:30ish and trial from 13th September.

We are thinking creatively how we can involve music (congregation though still can't sing outside), youth work, children's work, videos, testimonies, preaching, bible discussions. Perhaps bring your own flask of coffee and picnic tea for the kids (and yourself if you want!). We not only think this would be safer, but potentially quite fun and exciting anyway, and certainly a step forward for the church.

Of course, it would observe ALL guidelines for worship outdoors, meeting outdoors, education of children, etc. Obviously, things could change with this, will keep everyone updated with the newsletter first week September.

As you can imagine this is quickly emerging. Please pray for us as we work this out, and get back to us and let us know what you think!

This Sunday

Matthew 7:7-12 Ask, Seek, Knock

Join us for our socially-distanced **service in church** of readings and prayer,

9:30am Frant, 11:15am Eridge.

Don't forget your mask.

Also **join us online for our main service** from 9:30am.

We carry on our *Living Faith* series in the **Sermon on the Mount**. This week we will see a progression in our relationship with our Father God from starting with asking, to then seeking, to then knocking, in order to receive, find and be welcomed by our Father God.

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDtsdqyqX6S8yZZI5S-pK6Q>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/frantchurch>

Finally, to let you know that I am taking a couple of weeks off from Monday, so won't be about until September. Newsletters will resume then!

Every blessing,

Rev Brendan