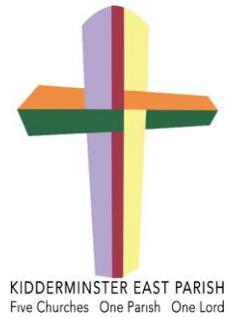


Tuesday 9th February 2021



Dear Friends,

The pandemic continues to present us with challenges in all sorts of directions, not least in trying to make good decisions, especially since developments seem to be so fast-changing. We aim to make decisions with enough notice for people to plan accordingly, and to keep ourselves flexible enough for what becomes apparent in the future.

The Standing Committee has decided that our churches should remain closed for the month of March, except for weddings and funerals. The decision was based upon what can be read about the new variants of Covid-19, and the high likelihood that restrictions will remain in place in other aspects of life for some time to come. It is always a matter of trying to balance our desire to be together to worship with the need to be as safe as possible.

As before, we will review the decision in about a month's time, and we are hoping for a partial re-opening for some services during Holy Week, so that we have a mix of in-person and online services over Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

The fact of closing our buildings does not mean we are prevented from worshipping together. We'd like to remind you of those options of receiving the service sheets we use, following the Bible readings; dialling in on a phone to listen to our services; taking part in a Zoom service but with your camera switched off, as well being 'fully present' in the Online service.

During March we will continue to run a quieter, more reflective, more traditional evening service on Zoom on a Sunday, as well as the morning service that so many are gaining much from.

Do send a request to parishcomms@kidderminstereast.org.uk for the links to the various parish services and other gatherings, or for more general information and service sheets to office@kidderminstereast.org.uk / 01562 822131 (please leave a message).

Let's continue to keep in touch in all the ways that we can and continue to pray for and support each other through these difficult times.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

David & Robert