



CHANDLERS FORD Methodist Church

Registered Charity No. 1127449

Ministers:

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Dear friends,

I am writing on the day that has been 'Freedom-day' after a meeting of some of our Leadership Team about how to apply the new rules to life in Chandler's Ford Methodist Church.

The changes in rules have been introduced as a move to personal responsibility, which some are taking to mean that we can do whatever suits us. In the life of the church, however, there is no such thing as personal responsibility that does not include corporate responsibility. In other words, we take care of ourselves by taking care of our neighbours. This is the principle on which we have made the following decisions.

All users of the building will be required to sign in using the QR code or by signing the sheet, to sanitise our hands on entering the building, and to wear face coverings. We will continue to have windows open and the additional cleaning regime will remain.

For Services, we will not make any change to the way the chairs are set out – in the hope that this will enable those who have felt unable to return to church until now, to feel safe. However, as the numbers of people coming to church increase, we will slowly reduce the spaces between the chairs and will keep this under review.

We understand that many people wish to sing, but singing increases the aerosols that carry the virus in the building, increasing the risk of passing Covid-19 on. So, we will continue to wear face coverings (unless you are exempt), and if you wish to sing you can sing with it on. At the staff meeting last week, Rev Howard Mellor told us that this is normal practice in Asian countries, and choirs often have people wearing masks!

The Services will continue to last for about 45 minutes, or 50 minutes when it is a Communion Service. We will continue to use gluten-free wafers because these require a minimum of handling and can be distributed more easily than bread. We want to reintroduce Communion wine as soon as it feels safe to do so. We will not use books that are shared, or take a collection by passing the plate between us.

There will be new rules for the Dovetail Café, although some will remain the same. The changes you will notice are that you need to sign in or use the QR code yourself. One person from your table or group will order your drinks, and only they will stand in a socially distanced queue. When you leave, please leave your cups etc. on the table so that the staff know which tables to clean.

It will take time to create a rota for coffee on a Sunday morning. This will begin after Breakfast Church – at 10.30 am on Sunday 5th September, before the 11.00 am Service.

We realise that some people may not be happy with the decisions we have made. We are trying to balance the needs and wishes of a church in which there are many differing opinions and desires. And we hope that the basis on which we have made our decision – that we all have a responsibility to care for each other – is accepted by us all.

With good wishes, Sue Keegan von Allmen on behalf of members of the Leadership Team.

Circuit Letter to churches:

Dear Friends,

I am writing to tell you about some short-term changes in Ministerial responsibilities that we need to make from the beginning of September and for the following 6 months.

As we discussed at the recent Circuit Meeting, the ongoing impacts of Covid-19 mean that we have had to update parts of the Circuit Strategy and we are now starting to work our way through the detail and how, in particular, the Area Ministry Teams will work.

In the short term we have a challenge in the Winchester Area Ministry Team at our Alresford church. In due course, Rev Moses Agyam, working with a Lay Pastor will add Alresford to his responsibilities but Moses is moving to a new area with two other churches. He will need time for him and his family to settle in. In addition, we are still in the process of recruiting a Lay Pastor for that team.

For those 6 months, therefore, I will take responsibility for the Alresford church. Rev Ruth Fry will increase her time allotted to Chandler's Ford to cover for me, and Rev Kate Cambridge will be working additional hours at St. Andrew's, to replace the time that Ruth will give to Chandler's Ford. Ruth will continue to be a Minister at St. Andrew's as I will at Chandler's Ford. This will have no impact on the hours that Kate already devotes to Bishopstoke church.

Finally, can I put on record the thanks of the Circuit Leadership Team to Rev Howard Mellor and Rev Adrian Roux for the work they have done and continue to do for Wesley, Weeke, Kings Somborne and Alresford during the past year.

With good wishes, *Sue Keegan von Allmen.*

Sunday 25th July 2021

9.45 am **Zoom Coffee Time** chat:

(Contact Richard Wright for *Zoom* details.)

11.00 am **Sunday Worship with Holy Communion** – Rev Sue Keegan von Allmen

You can also join on *Zoom*:

(Contact Richard Wright for *Zoom* details.)

Thursday 29th July

10.30 am **Midweek Service** – Anne Heath

You can also join on *Zoom*:

(Contact Richard Wright for *Zoom* details.)



The **Dovetail Café** is now open on three days a week
– **Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays** from 9.30 am until 12 noon.

We are hoping to run **Dovetots Plus** on **11th, 18th and 25th of August**. It is a fun morning, Dovetots Plus is aimed at families particularly older brothers and sisters of Dovetots but also great if you have grandchildren staying. It has been really appreciated by the wider community and, after the year we have had, it will be great to be able offer this outreach as restrictions lift. To do it we need volunteers to help to chat to families, sign them in and make drinks, help set up and tidy after. Please speak to Jane Padley if you can help with this on any of the dates above.

Alan Cranmer Fund – Supporting the work of the Holdsworth Memorial Hospital in India – probably needing help more than ever at the moment. I don't feel I can do a garden event this year, so ask you to donate as last year (when we did very well). Donations please to Barbara Hillier, 137 Hursley Road. Cheques made to the Alan Cranmer Fund, or cash. Thank you for your support.

The **Farewell Barbecue** for **John and Caroline Andrews** is at the Church on **Saturday 24th July** from 4–7 pm. John would love to see as many people there (youth or adult) who he has worked with over the years.

*God of truth, you are worthy of higher praise than we can offer,
and of purer worship than we can imagine.
By your Holy Spirit, assist us in our prayers and draw us to yourself,
so that what is lacking in our thoughts and actions,
and in our words and music,
may be supplied by your overflowing love;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

