

Dear Church family

There is finally some good news to share! The government has announced we can open for private prayer and for funerals again. We have been meeting online and in small groups as a church committee to work through the guidance, and plan to reopen Carlton church on Sunday afternoons starting from the 28th June from 2-5pm and in Drax 10-1pm on Wednesday mornings (starting on the 24th June). If this works well, we will hope to continue this pattern until normal services can be held again.

What will Personal prayer in church look like in Carlton and Drax?

We cannot provide bibles or books for you when you come to the church but can offer some prayer sheets to take away. We've included with this letter a suggested focus for personal prayer you could bring with you. We will provide a focal point in church to help you talk to God. This may be an opportunity to light a candle or sit and reflect with a picture or bible verse. If you have a personal bible or prayer book you use, please do bring this with you.

Church will be clearly set out so that you know where you can sit or kneel to pray. Hand sanitiser will be available, and we recommend you apply this before coming in. Volunteers will be on hand to support you, however we are unable to come within two metres so please do respect this, as many volunteers may themselves be in a vulnerable group. Volunteers may be wearing gloves and a mask to protect their own health.

If you have symptoms of Covid 19 you should follow government advice to stay at home and stay safe. We will sadly not be able to offer drinks or hospitality at the church at this time. You will only be in church for up to around 20 minutes, to allow as many people as possible to come in.

I'd like to come to church, what do I do next?

If you know you would like to join us at a specific time please get in touch, so we can book you in. You can telephone Margaret Clayton for Carlton on 01405 862026 or Annette at Drax on 01757 618389 or email rev.becky.allright@gmail.com Any queries do let any of us know.

If you are not sure what time you'd like to come, please do still drop in, however we may ask you to wait outside or in the porch, if we cannot maintain social distancing.

As the psalmist writes in Psalm 46 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.' We hope that visiting our churches for prayer will remind us all of that fact. We sometimes do forget that we can trust God with everything, and that he will not let us down, even when our troubles seem to overwhelm us, he still loves us.

We hope you are enjoying our online services or CDs. Last Sunday we tried a videoconference service on 'Zoom' and will be experimenting with this in the future again. Even though it wasn't quite the same as being together, it was lovely to be able to share time together. One member of the church even joined us from hospital, whilst each of us were in our own homes, which was an experience I will never forget. We may try this again as a 'coffee time' after church and will be in touch soon to share details.

With every blessing, Rev Becky and Rev Anna

Psalm 46 (Good news version)



**God is our shelter and strength,
always ready to help in times of trouble.**

So we will not be afraid, even if the earth is shaken
and mountains fall into the ocean depths;
even if the seas roar and rage,
and the hills are shaken by the violence.

There is a river that brings joy to the city of God,
to the sacred house of the Most High.
God is in that city, and it will never be destroyed;
at early dawn he will come to its aid.

Nations are terrified, kingdoms are shaken;
God thunders, and the earth dissolves.

The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

**Come and see what the Lord has done.
See what amazing things he has done on earth.**

He stops wars all over the world;
he breaks bows, destroys spears,
and sets shields on fire.
“Stop fighting,” he says, “and know that I am God,
supreme among the nations,
supreme over the world.”

The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Personal Prayer:

Pray through the words of the psalm and find a phrase or word to focus on. Ask God to speak to you and give you his peace.

What times of trouble would you like to ask him to help you with?

What rivers of peace can you see in your life?

What amazing things has the Lord done on earth?

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours

now and for ever.

Amen.

