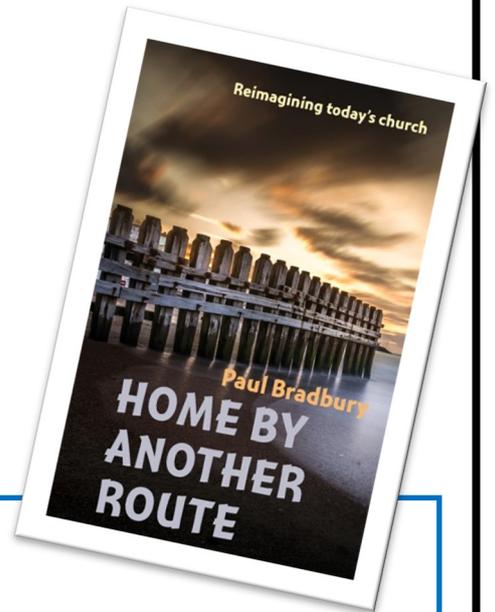


St Peter's Hartshorne

Hello Everyone

The sun seems to have left us for a while but in the same way that we trust the better weather will return we also trust that God has a plan for our church going forward.

During the past few weeks I, along with other Minster clergy, have been reading 'Home by another route' by Paul Bradbury (I know some of you have read this too). It is a very thought-provoking book as it considers the current state of the church using the metaphor of exile and the prophecies of Ezekiel. While the book is primarily looking at the 21st century, post Christendom church, it can equally be read as a commentary on our current 'exile' from our church buildings as it encourages us to understand what we mean by church, to accept what we have lost in terms of power and status and through this discover of who we might be as God's people in today's world.



I encourage you, over the next few weeks to consider:

- What have we missed the most about church?
- Are there any things we've felt relieved to stop doing, things that we won't miss?
- What kinds of support and activities are we offering in person and online, and why?
- Have there been advantages to doing things in this way?

If you have any insights please feed them into the leadership team.



The government is allowing church buildings to open for private prayer from Saturday 13th June.

Private prayer is defined as: a person or household entering the venue to pray on their own and not as part of a group, led prayer or communal act. They should be socially distanced from other individuals or households. Collective or communal prayer and regular scheduled services are not permitted at this time. This includes a Minister of Religion or lay person leading devotions or prayer of any sort.

Opening the church building is not essential, it will be based on the local situation and the ability to open safely. Our leadership team has been looking at what we need to do to enable our building to be opened for private prayer. This work will continue over the next week and if we can do so safely, we will hope to open twice a week from next weekend.

Watch this space.



In the meantime, Gwen sends a picture from her garden:

The poppies are out in my garden and, like this, they made me want to shout and sing about how good God is to us!!



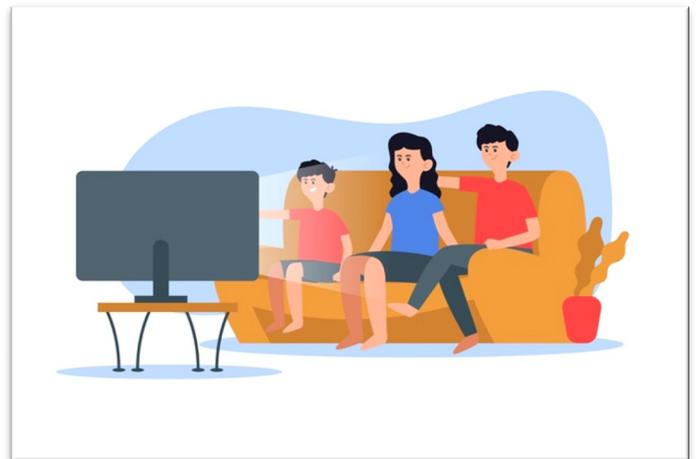
After church coffee

Don't forget to join us on Sunday at 11:30am

Please join us on the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87324356137?pwd=ckdVMTN6eS9GMiRveUMyMWwvT1ZVZz09>

Or by telephone on 0203 481 5240 quoting Meeting ID: 873 2435 6137 and Password: 721159



Keep Safe everyone

God Bless

Stella

