

This is an update to let you know that although the government has permitted churches to reopen from 4th July, St James' will **not** be opening this weekend.

The standing committee is currently reviewing the latest government guidelines and the information from the Church of England. Please rest assured that our primary concern is to provide for a safe return to worship at St James'. To put this into perspective, the current social distancing requirements mean that we can accommodate only about 30 people in the church at any one time and we are looking at ways to manage this. As soon as we have made the necessary preparations and are able to commence with Sunday services, we will let you know.

Initially this will be a gentle and cautious approach and it is almost certain that only a small number of people will be able to attend on Sundays. We would therefore like to reassure you that all our online reflections and Sunday services will continue exactly as they are at present. We will also continue with the provision of weekly bulletins and DVDs and we encourage you not to feel any obligation to rush back to church. Instead, please stay safe, stay in contact with us and one another, and continue to worship with us – where appropriate, from home.

Whilst we are working extremely hard to get back to normal, this is clearly going to be a long and sometimes difficult journey. So, please be patient and let's continue to hold one another in our prayers.

Fr Henry, Fr Steve and the Standing Committee