



*Parish of Blaydon and Swalwell  
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23 July 2020

Dear Friends

I hope this letter finds you well, and that you have felt able to visit church for private prayer over the past 3 weeks.

In our last letter we explained we would move step by step to opening up our churches and I am pleased to say that St. Cuthbert's Church, Blaydon will open for worship at 10.15 am on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August. The service will be a modified service in line with COVID-19 safeguarding arrangements, we will share in the bread only, and although we will have music, there can be no singing at present.

As you know our buildings are very different and unfortunately, we are unable to open Holy Trinity at present as the current COVID-19 safeguarding arrangements are very restrictive for smaller buildings. We will have further discussions and open for worship as soon as we are able. The church has been set up for private prayer in accordance with social distancing guidelines, has been well used and continues to be available.

If you feel safe to do so please come and join us for worship at St. Cuthbert's Church at 10.15am on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August or you can continue to visit our churches for individual/private prayer as follows:

- Swalwell: every Wednesday from 1.00pm - 3.00pm
- Blaydon: every Thursday from 10.30am – 11.30am (instead of Wednesday)

If you feel unsafe visiting our churches at present, you can of course continue to pray at home, as we can pray anywhere and anytime. I hope that the previously circulated prayer booklets will aid your prayers. We are not encouraging those of us who are shielding to attend church indeed you shouldn't do so and were looking

forward to the time we all (shielding and not shielding) can come together in worship. A review of shielding arrangements is due shortly and we hope that you may be able to return to church later in August.

We will continue to communicate through Facebook and our website which is [blaydonstcuthbert.com](http://blaydonstcuthbert.com) and as part of preparing for separation a Holy Trinity Swalwell specific website is now available which is [holytrinitychurchswalwell.org](http://holytrinitychurchswalwell.org). We will continue to post on both on websites Sunday readings, Collect Prayers and a weekly reflection/sermon. If you can't access our websites please let us know using the contact information below how you would want us to contact you.

Please do let us know if you would like prayers said for you or someone else or if you need help or a chat. If there is anything else you would want us to explore please let Rev Lorna, Rev Brian or your wardens know as were learning how to be church differently as we journey together.

Thank you for continuing to keep in touch with each other and supporting each other as you can.

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***Stay safe and every blessing***

***from Rev Lorna, Rev Brian and Church Wardens***