

May 2021

Dear friend

Covid 19 regulations and guidelines have been part of our lives for the past fifteen months. Thankfully, as the number of people who have been vaccinated increases and the 'R' number decreases, there has been a further easing of the regulations and guidelines. Nevertheless, it is important that we follow the current regulations and guidelines.

We've been through lockdowns, through periods when we couldn't meet for 'in-person' services, through times when businesses and shops were closed. There have been and are regulations about where people can meet and how many can meet. So many rules, regulations and guidelines about where we could/can go and what we could/can do.

In addition to Covid 19 regulations and guidelines, there are the normal rules and regulations, including the 'Highway Code', that are part of everyday life. There are the rules and regulations associated with sport, with organisations and clubs. The rules, regulations and codes of practice associated with schools, with work and with professional bodies and how to use and maintain tools, equipment and machinery.

### **Not about rules but a relationship**

Rules, regulations and guidelines are such an integral part of our lives that sometimes people think, we think, that Christianity is about following rules, regulations and guidelines. It's NOT, it's about a relationship with God. If it's about rules, regulations and guidelines, there would have been no need for God the Son to come to earth, no need for Him to suffer and die on the cross. Jesus died on the cross and was raised to life again to make it possible for people to know a restored relationship with God.

God wants us to know Him and have a meaningful and life-transforming relationship with Him. We enter into that relationship by becoming followers of Jesus, by repenting of our sin and putting our trust in Jesus Christ as our Saviour. When we become followers of Jesus, God the Holy Spirit comes to live with us and within us. He helps to nurture our relationship with God as we read the Bible, He helps us to understand it and live by its teaching. He helps us as we pray, as we worship God, as we live for and serve God and fulfil His will. He helps us grow and mature in our faith, He helps us become more like Jesus.

When we become a follower of Jesus, we become a son or daughter of God, we become a member of God's family. As a member of God's family, we have a new relationship with other followers of Jesus, we become a brother/sister to them, and they become brothers and sisters to us. As brothers and sisters, followers of Jesus who have the Holy Spirit living in us, we are to encourage and support one another as we grow and mature in our faith, as we live out our faith in daily life, and as we fulfil Jesus' command to be witnesses for Him.

### **A member of God's Family**

As we move forward, my prayer is that, through faith in Jesus as our Saviour, each one of us would know a meaningful and life-transforming relationship with God, that we would know the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, renewing us and restoring us, bringing healing and hope, helping us to grow and mature in our faith and live out our faith, helping us to connect and reconnect with our brothers and sisters in Christ, and helping us to be witnesses for Christ in our daily lives.

May the Lord bless you, encourage you and guide you. May you know his presence, peace and power.

*Roderic*

(Please see overleaf for further information | June Bible readings included in this mailing)

## **'In Person' Sunday Services**

### **Holy Trinity**

10.00am Service in the Church | 11.15am 'All-age' contemporary service in Holy Trinity Church Hall

### **St Patrick's**

10.00am Service in the Church | 10.00am 'All-age' contemporary service in St Patrick's Church Hall

Our pattern of services will be kept under review, and further changes made when circumstances allow.

### **'In Person' Wednesday Service**

In addition to our 'In Person' Sunday services and our online services, we are going to have a service of Morning Prayer in Holy Trinity Church on Wednesdays at 10.30am, beginning on 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

Social distancing of 2 metres must be observed at all services, including at the entrance and exit. Please wear a face covering. Everyone is requested to hand-sanitise at the entrance and fill up designated pews/seats, starting at the front. People attending a service are requested to bring a piece of paper with their name, contact number, and the names of anyone from their household who attend the service with them.

### **Online Sunday Services**

Our online Sunday services will continue to be available from 10.30am on the parish website ([bchurch.co.uk](http://bchurch.co.uk)), Facebook, YouTube, and the 'dial-in' number 028 4040 0345.

### **Youth and Children's Ministry**

Our online Kids programme is available on the website and Facebook each Sunday from 11.30am. Inspire (Youth Fellowship) continues to meet on Sunday evenings at 7.00pm in Holy Trinity Church Hall.

### **Toddler Time on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June**

We are planning to have a Toddler Time on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 11.00am. Parents are welcome to bring a picnic to enjoy on the lawn at Holy Trinity. Due to a limit on numbers, **please sign up via our website or by calling the Parish Office**. Please contact Ava if you have any questions. (Toddler Time will be subject to Covid 19 regulations and guidelines.)

### **Church Picnic on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June**

We are planning to have a Parish Picnic, at Holy Trinity, on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June after the 11.15am service. Please bring your own chair/rug and your picnic, of course. **Please sign up via our website, or by calling the Parish Office**. The Picnic will provide an opportunity for us to come together. (The Picnic will be subject to Covid 19 regulations and guidelines.)

### **Holiday Bible Club**

Ava is currently preparing an online HBC and an 'In Person' HBC. We are hoping and praying that it will be possible to host an 'In Person' HBC, but this will depend on what the regulations and guidelines allow. The provisional dates are: 12-13<sup>th</sup> August in St Patrick's Church Hall, Seapatrick, and 16-18<sup>th</sup> August in Holy Trinity Church Hall, Banbridge. Further information will be provided, in due course, at our services and online.

### **Youth**

Ava is planning some summer youth events. Further information will be provided, in due course, at our services and online.

### **Children and Youth**

The Diocese of Down and Dromore has released details about the DDYC Adventure Days, Kids' Camp and Youth camps. Please visit our website for more information or contact Ava.

### **Pastoral Care and Support**

Please contact me or the Parish Office (028 4062 2744/info@bchurch.co.uk) if you, or someone you know, need help or support, or phone me (028 4062 2612 or 07933096720) if you would like to talk or would like someone to pray with you.