

Dear Friends,

This is the first three month preaching plan we have produced since March-May 2020. That plan was the one we had to abandon, of course, when the whole country went into Lockdown due to coronavirus on March 23rd (our final Sunday services in churches were held on March 15th!) Since then, we have only felt able to produce preaching plans a month at a time due to a number of uncertainties including churches' decisions of whether to resume face-to-face services or not and the availability of preachers. It has been the strangest of years, but thanks to all of you – church stewards, members, preachers and ministers – for helping us get through.

In some ways, this three month plan represents some kind of return to normality – the vast majority of churches are now open every Sunday. But the truth is, we are still a long way from normal and we continue to live with uncertainty. Church Councils are still being asked to take measures to make their particular building safe for their particular congregation and this means arrangements for worship may vary from one place to another. Please continue to support our church stewards and others having to make these decisions – it has not been easy!

There are some features of this preaching plan I want to make you aware of:

Provision of regular online worship – worshipping online was something we were forced to do over the past 18 months. Now we are returning to face-to-face worship we have had many calls to maintain a regular online worship service which can be accessed by people who cannot get to church for one reason or another. **On this plan, Rev. Judith Holliman and the Radyr Congregation have agreed that their weekly “blended” morning worship (that is, face-to-face and live streamed on Zoom) will be available to anyone across the circuit who wishes to join in.** Joining details are the same each week and can be obtained from Judith or from Lisa at the Circuit Office;

Evening worship – we have not had any face-to-face evening worship in the circuit since March 2020. We are reluctant to simply return to what used to be as we have an opportunity now to think about how we may do things differently. **Conway Road have decided to resume their weekly Sunday evening services at 6pm and will be responsible for the worship.** All are welcome to worship at this service. **On the first Sunday of every month, the service will be led by a minister and there will be Holy Communion.**

Circuit Services – online Circuit Services were one of the good things that happened during the pandemic with very large numbers of people participating. **From September we are going to have Circuit Services via Zoom on the last Sunday of each month at 6pm.**

Several churches are also having mid-week services (some with communion) and sharing services through other online platforms such as Facebook and Facebook Live. We will advertise those as best we can via the Circuit website and Facebook page.

Let us keep moving forward in faith and the conviction that God, who has brought us this far, will continue to lead and inspire us. Let us be conscious of our influence on others in this uncertain time – we can be salt and light at a time when people need a sense of hope and security.

Every blessing,

Cathy