

Church life after COVID-19

An invitation to reflect and respond

COVID-19 has changed our experience of church life significantly. As we move slowly towards the possibility of returning to church and greater social interaction, I thought it would be useful to reflect on what we have gained and lost during these weeks since we left our physical churches in March.

Do we want church life just to return to what it was like before, or are there things that have started during the pandemic that we wish to continue, or are there things that we haven't really missed?

Your answers to these questions will help us discern how to move forwards into the future.

This survey is divided into two sections.

The first section asks very open questions about our Church Life and Community Witness. What have we lost and gained? The second section is very specific about what you have valued that is new about our worship and communications with one another.

Please complete as much of the form as you wish and return it me, preferably by email. Let me know if your copy needs to be collected from you at home.

Thank you

David Ford

Section 1: Church Life and Community Witness

1. What have we lost in the past two months as a church that must remain lost?
2. What has been lost that we must regain in the weeks and months ahead?
3. What has been gained in the past two months that must be retained or developed?
4. What was gained that was ok for a season but can now be lost?

Section 2: Worship and Communications

Below is a list of activities in church life that have started or developed during COVID-19. Please mark the column with a tick if you wish the activity to continue or cease but please give a reason either way. Leave blank if you don't have a strong opinion. There are additional lines in the table for you to add activities that I've overlooked. The table is divided into two: Worship and Communications.

Worship

Activity	Keep going	Cease	Why?
Zoom services (as an addition to worship in church)			
New service sheets ⁱ , sometimes changing weekly			
Different congregations and churches worshipping together			
Online Bible Study groups			
Singing the peace			
Greater flexibility in our adherence to the liturgical calendar			
Use of images, video and internet resources during worship			

Communications

Activity	Keep going	Cease	Why?
Newsletters – by email			
Newsletters – by hand			
Pastoral letters			
Cascade/ telephone tree			
Zoom meetings for DCC etc			
Training via zoom			
Continued expansion of the web site			

ⁱ The ones we've been using were adapted from copies David simply had electronically on file from use in previous parishes