

The Parish Church  
of  
Saint Michael and All Angels  
**B E E T H A M**

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*from the Priest-in-Charge*

**The Reverend Andrew Bryan Norman**

The Parsonage, Stanley Street, Beetham, Milnthorpe, Cumbria, LA7 7AS

## **CORONAVIRUS UPDATE**

*from the Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Beetham*

### **REOPENING OF THE CHURCH BUILDING FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP**

Following the Government's announcement that places of worship would be permitted to open once more for public worship from Saturday 4 July, the Standing Committee met this week to discuss how we might respond to this news.

After a thoughtful and considered discussion, it was unanimously agreed that we would hope to be able to resume public worship on **Sunday 12 July at 11.00am**, as the first stage in a phased re-opening of the church building for worship and private prayer. This we believe would give us adequate time to make the congregation, parish and wider community aware of our decision, to prepare and clean the church ready for worship, and ensure that all safety measures are in place to ensure that we can return to worshipping in our much-loved church building in a managed and thoughtful way. This recommendation was supported unanimously by the Parochial Church Council through an email conversation over the last few days.

This, however, will not be a return to the 'old normal' that we experienced prior to the Coronavirus pandemic, and its incumbent upon all of us to be aware of the continuing risks that will surround us in the coming weeks and months as we continue to mitigate the ongoing dangers of the virus. As such, we will continue to listen to public health advice as well as guidance issued by the Government, the Church of England and the Diocese of Carlisle.

In order to continue to make preparations for this, the church building will be made ready and a full risk assessment is being completed, to ensure that we are doing everything as safely and responsibly as we can. Over recent weeks various PPE resources have been acquired and further items are to be

ordered in the coming days to ensure the wellbeing of all those who will chose to gather for worship in the coming weeks.

As already stated, this is the first cautious step of what will be a long journey, but we hope a welcome one as we return to our parish church in order to pray, worship, and spend time together in the Lord's company and around the Lord's table.

We will keep our next steps under constant review and adjust our practices accordingly as we move forward. We would hope in the coming weeks to make the church building available for private prayer during the week and the practicalities of this will be thought through once we have had time to settle into this new pattern of worship on Sunday mornings.

We pray that these tentative first steps will provide a welcome opportunity for us to gather once again as the body of Christ and so be renewed together in God's great gifts of faith, hope and love.

You might like to offer the following prayer as part of your own devotions at home in the coming days:

*Saving God,  
open the gates of righteousness,  
that your pilgrim people may enter  
and be built into a living temple  
on the cornerstone of our salvation,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*