

## **Church Opening Information**

### **Greenmount United Reform Church**

Greenmount United Reform Church will be open for worship from Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July at 10am. We do ask for those attending to let the church secretary know in advance because social distancing does considerably reduce the capacity of the church.

The church secretary can be contacted on 01204 880709 or email [neilcarter395@btinternet.com](mailto:neilcarter395@btinternet.com)

Neil Carter

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### **The Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw**

The Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw is pleased to be able to welcome you to Emmanuel Church for Individual Private Prayer each Sunday between 2 and 3pm.

Our Reflective Garden at Emmanuel Church Centre (Canon Lewis Hall) on Longsight Road is always open for use by the public to sit and reflect or just enjoy the garden.

We hope to be able to open our three buildings for worship services soon, I will let you know when details are known.

Stephen. Church Warden

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### **The Parishes of Guardian Angels, Bury and Saint Hilda's Tottington**

#### **LATEST UPDATE ON THE OPENING OF OUR CHURCHES**

As you will know by now, the Government has given the go ahead for places of worship to open but only with strict social distancing and other measures in place. In reality, what this means for us is a restriction of just 26 and 28 people allowed in St. Hilda's and Guardian Angels respectively at any one time. Whilst the safety of all parishioners is our primary concern, the restriction on numbers we are allowed to have in church at any one time presents a real dilemma for us. Given the size of our parish community and the number of parishioners who attend Mass each week, I do not see how we can fully open either of our churches at this present time.

As such, I feel the safest and most sensible decision is to delay opening our churches for the time being until restrictions are eased further and there is more confidence that the Covid 19 pandemic is under control.

**So for now, there are no plans to open either of our churches for Mass, Reconciliation, Baptism, Weddings or Funerals.**

I realise that this will be a disappointment to some people, but I hope you will understand the dilemma we face and recognise that the safety and well-being of parishioners is our priority. We have worked hard to foster a sense of 'Church at home' through our communications and live streaming of Masses etc. I can only assume from the hundreds of people who join us for Mass each week (and the lovely comments we receive) that this is an adequate (albeit temporary) alternative for the time being.

#### **BOTH OUR CHURCHES ARE OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER**

Although our churches are closed for public gatherings, they are open for private prayer during the week as follows:

**Guardian Angels' Church Tuesday 11:00am - 2:00pm**

**St Hilda's Church Wednesday 6:00pm - 8:00pm**

**Guardian Angels' Church Thursday 6:00pm - 8:00pm**

**St Hilda's Church Friday 11:00am - 2:00pm**

#### **WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU COME TO CHURCH:**

- The wearing of face masks and gloves is currently advised but not compulsory. If you wish to wear face masks and gloves, please could you bring these with you.
- You will be required to sanitise your hands as you enter *and* exit church. Hand sanitisers will be available.
- The stewards / signs will direct you down the centre aisles and into benches. When leaving church please exit via the side aisles and follow the signs. At Guardian Angels', please enter via the Leigh Lane door **ONLY** and exit via the door opposite the presbytery. At St. Hilda's, please enter and exit via the main entrance door. Please give way to parishioners who may be exiting at the same time.
- Seating areas will be clearly marked to ensure the required social distancing. Family members living in the same household may, of course, sit together. All children should be accompanied by an adult.

#### **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:**

Whilst our churches are open for private prayer, the Blessed Sacrament will be in Exposition on the Altar. Please help to ensure a peaceful environment during this time of silent prayer.

Father Paul

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## **The Parish of St. Anne's Tottington**

The next public celebrations of Holy Communion will take place in St Anne's on:

**Sunday 19th July at 8.00 am** (1662 Book of Common Prayer), **10.00 am, 11.00 am, 12 noon** (Common Worship) accompanied by the organ.

**Wednesday 22nd July at 11.00 am** Holy Communion (Common Worship)

Further dates and times will be posted on the website.

A maximum number of 30 people may attend each service that must be arranged by contacting the Churchwarden on 01204 880136 or [gillianleach@gmail.com](mailto:gillianleach@gmail.com).

Please ensure that you turn up in good time and are familiar with the Church Risk Assessments that are available on the web.

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