



**Christ Church Stocksbridge
Green Moor Methodist Church
Crane Moor Methodist Church**

NEWS LETTER

For Sunday 22nd August 2021

Dear All at Green Moor, Crane Moor and Christ Church

A number of you have managed to get a way for a few days or on an actual "staycation" and there may still be some anticipation for future travels. We hope you have enjoyed or will enjoy the change, as restrictions have been eased. We managed 3 nights in Oxford staying at one of the colleges and are hoping to do the same in Cambridge early in September. It seems that lots of people are still observing the hands - face - space to a degree, particularly in shops and so getting out and about feels reasonably safe. We hope you are finding the same and are feeling comfortable in the new climate.

We now seem to be getting used to meeting back in church and it feels as though our cautious approach has enabled most people to feel safe about getting back together. Despite the restrictions it feels to me that the worship experience is worth while and a step up from just being on-line. We understand that Crane Moor are pausing during August, but that Green Moor are moving forward with their worship in church. At Christ Church, the next Leadership Team is the 7th September and we will review the situation then as to whether we can re-instate the coffee and what to do about the masks, distancing and hand washing. Whilst the regulations would allow us to operate as we did pre-pandemic, our decisions have to be led by what the majority of you think is best. There is not an easy answer, as we clearly do not want to feel responsible for anyone acquiring COVID by coming to worship. We probably would not ever know if they got it here, and if someone did, the rest of us, who were doubly vaccinated, would not now have to self isolate and could continue coming to church and carrying on with their activities. Others, if in contact, would need to self isolate for 10 days. What we do now does not eliminate the risk, but does reduce it.

We also need to start thinking about the church meeting in October. It is over 18 months since we had one, and although I think we have managed to make decisions and communicate with everyone about what is going on, it is time for us to review the situation of the church, and formally record my position as the Church Secretary (assuming I do nothing catastrophic between now and then!)

The groups that use our buildings are now now starting to come back and the lunch club will be starting in September and we hope the mother and toddlers will be starting in line with the return of the schools.

Best Wishes and every Blessing

John

Christ Church Stocksbridge LEP, Manchester Road, Stocksbridge, S36 1DY: 0114 288 7899

Rev. Ian Lucraft, 16 Wadsley Land Sheffield S6 4EE

ianlucraft@btinternet.com : 0114 234 7153 and 07428 744 014

Website for Worship is: www.christchurchonline.org : and on facebook at [@christchurchstocksbridge](https://www.facebook.com/christchurchstocksbridge)