

## **Opening of Churches for Private Prayer**

The following churches will be open for short periods of time as follows:

Ashen - Sundays from 10am to 4pm

Birdbrook - Wednesdays and Sundays from 10am to 3pm

Ridgewell - Sundays from 12noon to 3pm

Helions Bumpstead - Wednesdays and Sundays – times TBC

While you are very welcome to use our churches for private prayer and each PCC has taken steps to clean the church and to take precautions against infection, we must advise that there is inevitably a potential risk of infection from corona virus for those entering the church for private prayer. Before entering any of our churches, it is essential please that you read and follow the guidance set out below so that you can protect yourself and others and help limit the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

- The church is open for the purpose of private prayer only. Please do not use the church to socialise with others or conduct any form of service or other activity.
- Please do not enter the church if anyone is seeking to leave the church through the main entrance. Please wait outside until the entrance to the church is clear.
- While waiting, please remain on the church path and ensure social distancing including a gap of at least two metres from others waiting to enter the church.
- Please use the hand sanitiser on entry to the church. The wearing of masks is now compulsory inside the church. If you do not have a mask, please use one of the disposable masks on the table and dispose of it safely in the bin provided before leaving.
- On entering the church please enter your name and contact details on the Track & Trace form. If you do not have your own pen or pencil, please use the pen provided. The contact details are required should it be necessary to trace those using the church in the event of a case of infection. The details will be kept only for this purpose and will be destroyed within 21 days thereafter.
- Please follow social distancing guidelines at all times while in the church.
- Please only use the pews which are not closed off so as to ensure that social distancing is maintained between persons; not more than one person, family or household should use any one pew. If there is no pew free, please wait outside the church until a person or persons leave making space available.
- Surfaces are a prime potential source of infection – please minimise so far as possible touching or having contact with surfaces in the church.
- On leaving the church maintain social distancing at all times. Do not leave your pew until the space between the pews and the entrance is clear.
- Please wash your hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds as soon as you can, or when you return home after using the church for private prayer.

While each PCC has sought to minimise the risk of infection, anyone entering any of our churches for private prayer does so entirely at their own risk; the PCC can take no responsibility for the exposure to infection of those using the church.