



E-NEWS



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Opening Churches After Lockdown

Richard Cunningham reports:

Dear friends -

As the lockdown for Covid-19 is eased by the Government we face the issue of how to open our Church building again for Sunday worship, other meetings and perhaps for hire to 3rd parties. The Conference Council has been working on this issue, and is trying to prepare a policy and check-lists to assist you all. However, as soon as we had a first draft ready for our review, the Government moved from "you may open for private prayer" to "you may open for public worship from July, but follow the new guidelines."

We are aware that this leaves you all with no help, so it has been agreed that we will make available a draft that we have as of today (25th June) in two documents, a policy and a risk-assessment check-list. As drafts, these are subject to change and do not have the authority of the Conference Council.

You can download the draft documents here:

Draft Policy on Room Hire: <https://www.generalconference.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Draft-Policy-on-Room-Hire.pdf>

Draft Risk Assessment for Room Hire: <https://www.generalconference.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Draft-Risk-Assessment-for-Room-Hire.pdf>

Much of the work in preparing these drafts has been undertaken by Mr Wilf Woodhouse, and he has agreed to extend his Health and Safety work in the church to include Covid-19 public health issues. I thank him for all his work in this so far.

The most important message in the draft policy is the need for care in cleaning and in social distancing. For that reason, it would be good to review that, at least. As I said at the beginning of this short piece, the situation keeps changing, and if you open your Church, you must keep in close touch with the news and follow the government's instructions on public health.



Although we are in a position where we may soon open our buildings, the decision is yours at a society level. You should consider your own situations and work with your own congregations and local needs.

In the meanwhile, please do consider joining the upcoming events that are available via the Internet and the Zoom software: there is the fortnightly service at 10:45 (next on 5th July) and the "Together Online" event that will be held on two days during the week when we would have been at Swanwick.

I wish you all the best and good health! Kind regards, Richard Cunningham

“Together Online” - Results from Surveymonkey

Judith Wilson writes:

Firstly, thank you to our online Ministry Team for the massive amount of work that they have done in mastering Zoom and bringing so many people together for worship and friendship. This has been no mean achievement but has brought change to our way of doing things. This

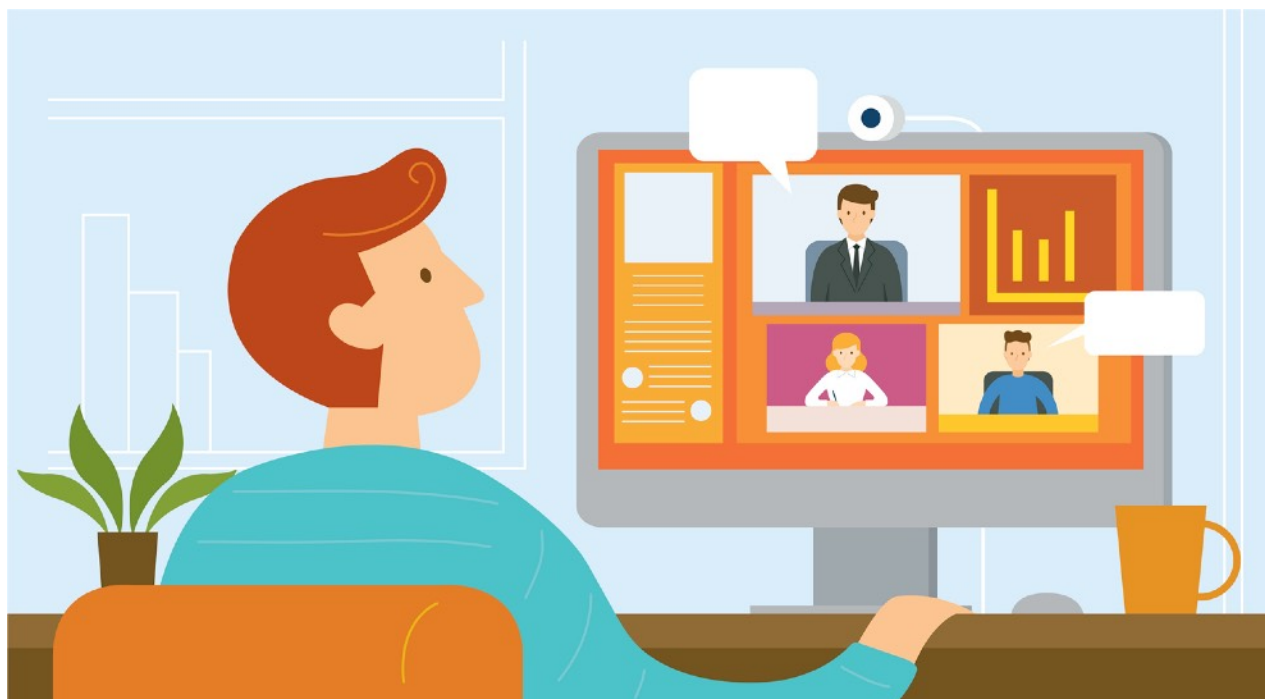
is shown by the massive support from many people responding to SurveyMonkey for further church activity online.

Thank you to the team, also, for organising SurveyMonkey and to nearly 90 of you who responded to questions about what is being suggested for our “Together Online” from 29th to 30th July 2020. Many of you offered help and made suggestions for activities. We are now asking that you get together and organise the activity you would like us to add to the programme. We know that some of you can be a controller for a free 40-minute Zoom session and we ask that you ‘buddy up’ with a host who can lead the session you are controlling.

If you would like to learn to be a controller, please feel free to contact me and I will talk you through it. You would need the Zoom app to be loaded first.

We will support your event by including it in the overall published programme, and work with you to create and manage a small database for communicating with people who want to sign up for your choice session.

Our “Together Online” experience is in 5 weeks. Please will you contact me before the 29th June if you wish to offer a session and we will add it to the programme. It’s not long I know!



You will receive a packet of proof reports if you usually attend Conference. They will also be available to download via E-News and ‘Purley People’ in Facebook. They will contain much of the information for which some of you were asking and that information will appear in the Yearbook as usual. It will be important that you read it if you are joining in!

Just as a guide the following events are already being planned after receiving positive responses:

- ❖ Service of Worship to recognise Jack Dunion as Spiritual Leader
- ❖ Spiritual Leader's Address with Questions
- ❖ Ministry throughout the Church and Memorials
- ❖ Information from the Company Accountant with Questions
- ❖ A fun quiz from the Youth and Family Team
- ❖ Morning Worship and closing prayer and reflection
- ❖ News from the Council - short addition to the Council report with Questions
- ❖ All Age Bible Study

I look forward to hearing from you with offers of other events. I am sure that you recognise that we cannot manage more without your help also.

Judith Wilson