

# Notes of informal meeting to discuss remembrance service 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 via ZOOM

## Present:

David Bish                      Iain Keeping                      Anne McGrath                      Rev. Mutete  
George Richards              Ann Wright (Clerk)

## Discussion

It was noted that due to restrictions and the on-going Covid pandemic that it was not possible to hold the usual Remembrance Day Service and the Act of Remembrance at the war memorial.

As such alternative suggestions had been made to lay wreaths on the three war graves in the graveyard or to lay them at a Silent Soldier positioned either in the church or graveyard and that these wreaths be moved late to the Memorial.

## St Albans

It was noted that risk assessments are in place and regularly repeated that allow for 50 Covid secure places in the church, 35 in the pews and 16 at the rear of the Church, if couples or families attend who can sit together a larger number of people can attend services.

A choir of 6 to 8 people has attended over the last three weeks and this has made a large difference to the feel of the service.

It was noted that the service should possibly be by invitation and that there was a need for it to be stewarded to prevent too many people attending the service. It was confirmed that the Church was now familiar with stewarding the services and had established a system of marking available seats with an order of service.

It was suggested that in addition to the regular congregation 10 to 15 people could be invited to attend to represent the community and various groups.

It was noted that permission would be required from CW&C to undertake the Act of Remembrance at the Memorial along with a detailed risk assessment of how social distancing will be managed which would be difficult.

It was suggested the number of wreaths laid during the Act of Remembrance which is usually around 20 be reduced to 6 which would represent different sections of the Community including:

- Bolesworth Estate
- Church
- Parish Council
- Royal British Legion
- Village Organisations inc. Barbour Institute
- Youth Organisations

It was noted that individuals and groups could still lay wreaths at the memorial at other times.

It was noted that regulations regarding attendance at Church Service had not changed as a result of recent tightening of restrictions but there was a possibility it could change before

November, noting the number of people who can attend an event at the Barbour Institute has been reduced from 30 to 15.

George Richards confirmed the Church was monitoring the regulations and would continue to review the risk assessments.

It was noted that as number will be restricted that it was important those families for whom the service is especially important should be able to attend, this was agreed and George Richards will seek to identify any such families.

It was agreed that it was important to make sure residents were aware of the restrictions and limits on who can attend, it was agreed this should be included in the Parish News as well as posters being displayed and information being published on online.

It was agreed that the order of service should also be published in advance.

Anne McGrath confirmed she would discuss including information in the Parish News with Pat Black and contact the cycling club who had said they wished to lay a wreath and inform them they can lay wreath in private.

It was agreed Rev Mutete, George Richards and David Bish would meet to discuss the Order of Service and where the wreaths should be laid as well as consider where to place the transparent soldiers either in the church or at the memorial.

Anne McGrath confirmed she would be happy to clean these and take responsibility for them at the memorial if that is where they are agreed to go.

It was agreed the Parish Council should continue to see if it was possible film and broadcast the service for people to watch possibly on YouTube.

It was noted the Parish Council did not want the usual congregation to be unable to attend the service due to the limit on numbers.

It was noted that it may not be the Council Chairman who lays the wreath on behalf of the Council.

All were thanked for attending the meeting and agreed to forward more information as it becomes available.

Ann Wright  
24 09 2020