

From the Woodside news desk18/07/21

Our warmest welcome is given to **Rev Ann Smith** as she leads our worship this week. Ann has preached a number of times over the last few years and that has been a joy and a blessing. Welcome, Ann.

There has been a lot of national news recently, announcing that Monday 19th July is to be 'Freedom Day'. Is that so? There is a wide spectrum of opinion about the wisdom of removing many of the restrictions experienced during the pandemic and we know this is qualified by 'be cautious'. My mind (i.e. Ken's mind) drifted to the anti-apartheid song announcing to the people of South Africa and the world-wide family that 'Freedom is coming, Oh yes I know'. If you wish to have your spirits lifted, then go onto YouTube and listen to the joyous singing of Bee Geesus Group. Most importantly, listen to the lyrics. Regardless of the 'Pandemic Freedom', we can be assured that we have true freedom through our Christian faith in the love of God and through Jesus Christ.

Clothes Bank: we are due to receive an outside clothes bank shortly, supporting the local Air Ambulance. Please consider what you might be able to donate that can be sold on. Clothes which are now too big? Clothes that are now too small? Anything you wish you had never bought but someone else might like?

Thank you to those who have returned the survey concerning our move forward after the pandemic. More responses would be appreciated.

Return to Worship : 33 members/friends have already returned to worship at Woodside and as confidence grows , we look forward to seeing more. If singing is important to you, we note that, on Monday 12th July, the Health Secretary said :

The Health Secretary, Sajid Javid, told the [House of Commons](#) on Monday afternoon: "There will no limits on the number of people who can attend life events such as weddings and funerals, and **there will be no restrictions on communal worship or singing.**" *(taken from the Church Times website)*

Alleluia!!!

Sadly, **John Horsler** is not well enough to take our service next week, as planned. We extend our love and prayers to John, Lynne and the family. We are grateful to **Jo Hibbard** for stepping in to lead our worship. Jo works for the Connexion as 'Director of Engagement' - ask Jo what her role is! We look forward to seeing Jo back at Woodside.