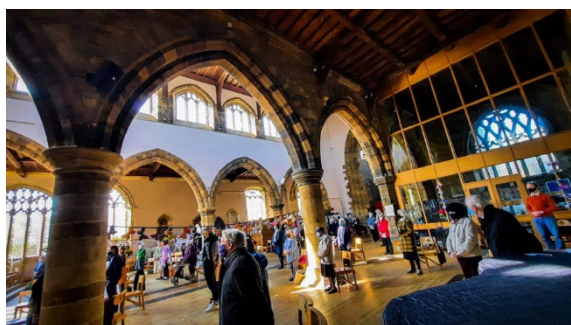


The parish reawakes



The Parish Church at Easter, a socially distanced, ticket only affair.

On 12 April the pubs reopened to outside drinkers. In an effort to boost trade for the badly hit hospitality sector, permission was granted to extend the serving area out on to the Market Place. The Unicorn sprouted six tables and planters much to the disquiet of residents who lost parking spaces, and the Farmers' Market team who had market stalls there at the monthly markets. The extension was to be a temporary arrangement until September, to be monitored closely by the licensing authority.



The Library opened under a new manager after closing its doors over a year ago. Opening times were reduced temporarily.

By the end of April, infection rates in Oxfordshire were down to 15 per 100,000 people with no deaths in the last month. But there were still warnings from scientists that a third wave could strike if restrictions were lifted too soon. The UK's hugely successful vaccination programme meant 34 million people had had a first jab, and another 15 million had both. But Europe was still struggling with lockdowns and slow vaccination roll-outs, while India's health system faced total collapse under coronavirus. The mantra still held: 'No one is safe until everyone is safe.'

The local Covid team stood down but were ready to reform if needed. As they said, 'the pandemic touched everyone in our Parish and it really brought out why Deddington and Parish is a wonderful place to live.' A job well done, and the Parish was truly thankful.