

GUIDELINES FOR THE MASS

We will continue to follow the diocese and government guidelines.

Please enter and exit the main doors where there will be hand sanitizers.

- ❖ People are to sit 2 metres apart
- ❖ People from the same household can sit together
- ❖ There is to be no singing
- ❖ No handshaking exchange of the peace
- ❖ No offertory procession or gospel procession
- ❖ The congregation are encouraged to speak in a quiet voice.
- ❖ Communion is to be in one kind only.
- ❖ The congregation must come up one at a time to receive the host
(standing and where possible extend your arms). Communion will take longer but this cannot be avoided
- ❖ The celebrant will place the host into the hands of each communicant without saying “The Body of Christ”. Please refrain from saying ‘Amen’.
- ❖ There is to be no after mass coffee.

Updated advice from the Church of England on 23rd July 2020:

‘We strongly advise that face coverings should be worn by all those attending a place of worship, including ministers, worshippers, staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors, where there may be other people present; remembering that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer, from coronavirus COVID-19 and that they are not a replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing’.

If you are unable to wear a mask, for example for medical or mental health reasons, these requirements do not apply to you and please continue to attend the mass. For further details please go to the following weblink: <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-07///COVID%2019%20advice%20on%20face%20coverings%20v1.0.pdf>

Further Information and Guidance

Transmission of COVID -19 remains a risk however and we are therefore obliged to work within the principles and requirements set out by HM Government and the Church of England. Using these requirements, the Vicar and Churchwardens have agreed the following guidance:

General Principles

When travelling to church please maintain requirements for social distancing, for example, do not give lifts in your car to people from a different household. If you are shielding please take advice from the NHS regarding the use of public transport.

We may need to limit the number of people in the church if numbers attending compromise our ability to maintain social distancing requirements. Should this occur, we will establish appropriate queueing arrangements in the cloister.

Help us to maintain a prayerful stillness and silence in the church. If you wish to talk or socialise, please do so outside the church building, in accordance with social distancing requirements.

To help reduce transmission of infection we ask you to avoid touching surfaces as much as possible, this includes devotional objects such as statues.

Candles will be available but extreme caution must be taken when lighting them as alcohol gel is flammable. Please wait a full minute after applying gel and wipe your hands with a disposable tissue before lighting a candle.

If you require additional assistance in order to gain access to the church, we ask that you inform the Vicar or Churchwardens in advance, so that we can both ensure access and maintain social distancing requirements.

Service Sheets

We will continue to provide electronic copies of the service sheet in advance of the service. To reduce the chance of COVID – 19 transmission, printed copies will not be provided at the church.

Track and Trace

We are advised to keep an accurate temporary record of visitors for 21 days to assist NHS Test and Trace should there be a local outbreak. We will collect and keep this information (name and telephone number) in accordance with data protection legislation.

General Hygiene

On entering and leaving the church building everyone, including staff and volunteers, should be asked to wash their hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using soap and water **or** to use hand sanitiser provided.

Can we Use the Toilets?

Toilets are available if required but we ask you to avoid using them if possible. Please ask one of the volunteers should you need access.

Worshippers over 70 and the Clinically Vulnerable

Certain groups of people may be at increased risk of severe disease from COVID-19, including people who are aged 70 or older, regardless of medical conditions. Individuals who fall within this group are advised to stay at home as much as possible and, if they do go out, to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside of their household.

Those who are considered to be extremely clinically vulnerable to COVID-19 will have been advised to shield and are currently advised not to meet more than one person from outside of their own household, and therefore not currently advised to attend places of worship. From Monday 6 July, those shielding individuals may choose to gather in groups of up to 6 people outdoors and form a support bubble with another household, they will therefore still be advised not to attend places of worship indoors.

Symptoms of COVID - 19 and those Self- Isolating

Anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell) should not attend the place of worship due to the risk that they pose to others; they should self-isolate at home immediately with other members of their household and participate remotely.

Where individuals are self-isolating due to a possible or confirmed case of COVID-19 in the household, or because they have been requested to so by NHS Test & Trace, should stay at home and participate remotely.

Children and Young People

We warmly welcome all children and young people; they are part of the worshipping body of Christ. Young children should be supervised by the parent or guardian and appropriate hygiene precautions followed.