

What to expect in church (2nd version)

We are delighted to be able to return to services in St Mary's Church, and especially to the Eucharist, which is at the heart of our worship and identity. We will be having a Communion service on Sunday 2nd August in St Mary's at 8am. The number of people able to be accommodated at a service is restricted.

We ask you not to attend the service if you: Have any symptoms of COVID 19; are self isolating; are shielding or a member of your household is shielding. You will be asked to use the hand sanitiser at the entrance before entering the church.

FACEMASKS: The Church of England strongly advises that face coverings should be worn by all those attending a place of worship, including ministers and worshippers. 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 cleaning. They would be temporarily removed to receive the Holy Communion wafer. (receiving is entirely up to you). We would encourage you to wear a mask whilst in church, unless you are exempt please.

We need to record those attending (name and telephone number unless we already have it) and these will be kept for 3 weeks after the service and given to Track and Trace if someone from the service later tests positive for coronavirus. They won't be used for any other reason; they will be securely disposed of after 3 weeks. If you test positive for coronavirus up to three weeks after the service, please let us know.

The welcomer/sidesperson will let people enter in households/bubbles or as individuals. **We ask you to go straight to one of the pews that will be in use and remain there for the duration of the service, some marked pews will not be in use to enable social distancing.** -There should be **only one person in each marked pew** unless in a household please. The doors will be kept open to allow some ventilation so you may notice it is a little cooler than you expect.

If possible please print and bring your own copy of the order of service. There will be some laminated copies available for those without printers or the internet.

The 8am is a said service. In order to minimise the risk of aerosol infection, as normal for an 8am Eucharist **we ask that when you are saying the responses that you speak quietly and prayerfully. When we share the peace, we cannot move from our places** – we will simply make a sign of peace to those in other households • During distribution of communion, only bread will be distributed. The minister will wear a mask and sanitise their hands before distribution. Communion will be given at the Chancel step – please keep a 2 metre distance and come up **ONLY when the previous person has SAT down** – we need to avoid passing each other in the aisle. The minister will instruct anything different.

At the end of the service: After the minister has processed out, the sidesperson will ask people to leave a row at a time. **Please wait for the sidesperson to ask you to leave. Please do not stop to chat while leaving the church – this stops others being able to exit without passing to close.** Once out of the church you are welcome to talk in small groups in the churchyard. Please do not block other people's exit from the building and remember to please stay 2m apart from people from other households.

I am sure all this will seem hard for many of you who just want 'to come to church' but we do need to follow all the guidelines to keep us all as safe as possible.

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