

## What can I expect when I come to church during the pandemic?

### Preparing to come

- ✓ If you are at an **increased risk** of serious disease (e.g. are aged 70 or older), you are advised, if you choose to attend, to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside of your household. If you are classed as '**clinically extremely vulnerable**', you are not currently advised to attend places of worship, but **a decision to do so is yours alone**.
- ✓ If you are **showing symptoms of Covid-19** (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell) you **should not attend** church due to the risk you pose to others. You should self-isolate at home immediately with other members of your household. You could, of course, continue to access the online service.
- ✓ **Children and young people** and their families are very welcome, as ever, to attend – though until further notice, we will not be holding our usual Sunday group until we are satisfied we can do so safely. Families may wish to bring e.g. colouring books or small toys in a bag for their own use.
- ✓ Social interaction is not currently encouraged between different household groups or 'bubbles' in government guidance. We know this runs contrary to what we would like to do as a church family! But we are subject to government authorities and so we would ask that you **seek to minimise informal engagement while inside the building or churchyard**.
- ✓ **It is now mandatory to wear a face covering in places of worship**. This is consistent with the government approach on wearing face coverings in enclosed public spaces where there are people from other households – like shops. Remember that face coverings are mainly intended to protect others, not the wearer, and they are not a replacement for social distancing and regular hand washing/sanitising.
- ✓ **Bring your own Bible** if you would like to. There will be no access to reusable Bibles, hymn books etc. in church.
- ✓ Remember there is **no WC** in church. We will also **not be serving refreshments** until further notice and we would ask that no food is shared between members while in church.
- ✓ To maintain social distancing, we are working on a limit of **30 worshippers** in the building at any given time, not including the officiants, verger/steward and organist (school groups may be subject to a different limit). We do not anticipate this being a

problem at all for our regular Sunday services, so if you're willing and able to come, this should be no bar.

### **As you approach, arrive and are seated**

- ✓ Entrance will, as usual, be through **the main door** (below the tower). Weather and noise pollution permitting, doors and windows (where they can be opened) will be opened to increase ventilation.
- ✓ Always **maintain a gap of at least 2 metres** from anyone not in your household group or 'bubble' – there will be reminders in church at eye and floor level (please be sure to observe this, especially to avoid any 'bottleneck' on entry). Please respect the note above about minimising social interaction outside of your household group or 'bubble'.
- ✓ There are no hand washing facilities at All Saints. However, we will be asking everyone to **sanitise your hands** using the hand sanitising station inside the entrance (you are welcome to bring your own instead/as well). Again, this will be signposted.
- ✓ Remember to have your **face covering** (appropriately fitted) on before you enter the building.
- ✓ You will be **shown to your seat** – seating has been arranged and marked to maintain the 2m social distance at all times. The seating markings are flexible enough to allow those coming as a household group or 'bubble' to sit together, but you should otherwise remain at least 2m from anyone outside of these categories. Please **do not sit in the seat closest to the aisle** on any pew in the nave (either side of the central aisle), as this will make distancing harder – including for any who are coming in after you have been seated.
- ✓ You will be asked to **provide your contact details** in advance (preferred) or on arrival (at your seat) – and give consent for these details to be held for 21 days – to support the government's '**Test & Trace**' scheme.
- ✓ At your seat, you will find a **single-use order of service** for that particular day. **Please take this home with you after use.**
- ✓ Please dispose of any used tissues etc. **in the bin operated by foot-pedal** provided in the main body of the church – or pocket them and take them home with you.

### **During the service**

- ✓ There will be – until further notice – **no congregational singing** because it's believed this presents an increased risk of virus transmission. There may still be music to enjoy and even song lyrics to reflect on.
- ✓ It is still in order for members of the church family to give Bible readings and lead intercessions – but please observe as much distancing as possible as you come to the front and – while it's good to use the standing microphone – please do not touch it.
- ✓ No member of the church apart from the officials, designated cleaners or on-rotas readers or intercessors should go beyond the chancel step at any point while in the building, or into any side rooms/areas.
- ✓ There will be – until the PCC has had further discussions – **no services of Holy Communion**.
- ✓ Please refrain from cash donations if possible so that it does not need to be handled. We are always happy to talk about how you could make a regular donation by Standing Order.

### **As you leave the service**

- ✓ Please **leave promptly** as the service ends, **remembering to maintain social distancing**, including from church officials, and minimising social interaction in the building or churchyard.
- ✓ Please remember to **take service sheets and face coverings home** and dispose of any used **tissues** either in the bin provided or by taking them home.
- ✓ The church will either be left empty for 72 hours after each use or cleaned according to national church advice ahead of its next use, ready to welcome you back.

A summary of these points will be displayed in church as a reminder.

Despite all the things that will be different, there will be lots that will be familiar. We look forward to welcoming any who are willing and able to come!

*Rev Jerry Taylor*  
Vicar

*8 August 2020*