

Summary of requirements in support of return to public worship

I wanted to clearly summarise requirements that we must comply with in order to return to public worship. These are set out below.

1. Initially, worship services will take place in the main part of Church which can accommodate up to 40 people. We can accommodate approximately 15 people in the hall should the need arise (in which case separate guidance will be provided).
2. The pews will feature seat location markers indicating where people must sit in order to maintain physical distancing requirements. Families in the same household and those in 'bubbles' may sit together.
3. Pews in Church will be marked out to clearly indicate which pews are available for seating. To maintain physical distancing, we will be using alternating pews. Please do not remove the barrier tape to access a pew that is not available.
4. The main part of the Church building will have directional arrows on the floor that clearly indicate the direction of 'flow' of people. Please comply with this requirement.
5. We ask that attendees take a seat from the front pews working backwards.
6. When the service is over, the presiding minister will invite people to depart beginning with those people sat in the back pews. This will allow people to depart by the same way as they arrived. Other access points to the building involve steps; we have made this decision to facilitate ease of access for the elderly and those with pushchairs and younger children.
7. An anti-bacterial gel dispenser has been installed at the main entrance to the Church building. Attendees are requested to use this facility both upon arrival and when departing. An additional dispenser has been fitted in the meeting room.
8. Physical distancing and Public Health requirements must be met; the two-metre 'rule' applies for public worship except in situations where closer contact cannot be avoided; extra Public Health precautions must then be taken.
9. Wearing of face coverings by all those attending a place of worship, including ministers and worshippers, where there may be other people present is mandatory – i.e. this is a legal requirement. The church has purchased a supply of single use face masks. If you do not have one with you, do please ask a Steward and they will direct you to where you can obtain one for use in the service.
10. Despite precautions and mitigation measures, there is still a risk associated with attending public worship. Those at extra risk and the 'clinically extremely vulnerable' should take this risk into consideration and if they choose to attend, the decision to do so is theirs alone.
11. Government guidance includes a request for names of attendees to be recorded and kept for 21 days to assist 'track and trace' if required. We will therefore have a log book in which names and contact details of attendees will be recorded at each service.
12. Serving of refreshments at this point is prohibited.
13. Use of service books and hymn books is at this point prohibited. Single use service sheets will be provided on the day.
14. Sung worship is prohibited, although the service may feature some music and media as appropriate.
15. Sharing the peace and other forms of physical contact are at this point prohibited.
16. If people feel unwell on the day of the service, they should avoid attending.
17. Toilets have been stocked with anti-bacterial hand wash and single-use paper towels. Do please use these and wash your hands for 20 seconds. Do please dispose of paper towels in the bin provided which will be emptied at the end of every service.
18. It will be possible for people to make a donation in support of the Church's ministry in the community. A collection plate will be available at the back of Church, but it will not be passed around.
19. Holy Communion will be in 'one kind' only. Attendees will be invited to come forward to receive the bread, one pew at a time, making their way down the central aisle and returning to their seat via the Lady chapel.