

*In order to reopen for worship, there are a number of changes that have been introduced to make the activity as safe as it can be for everyone.*

*It is important to remember that this will not be getting back to normal.*

*First and foremost, we need to acknowledge that not everyone will be there, whether that is because some people will still be medically vulnerable, or for other reasons that make sense to them.*

*Secondly, worship will be different. Services will be a maximum of 30 to 40 minutes long.*

*We will not be singing, as much as it is a part of how we express ourselves in worship it isn't a safe activity.*

*While many people will have been vaccinated at this point, we still need to follow these directions in order to worship together in person.*

## Safety

This leaflet is aimed at ensuring we all know what is expected of us as we come back into the building and we need to start by highlighting when you need to stay away.

## Do not attend church if...

Please do not come to church if you have symptoms of:



- a fever
- loss of taste
- sore throat/ new continuous cough
- loss of smell

If you do, stay at home and arrange to be tested- even if you think that you have a cold. It could still be Covid-19.

## Arriving at church



You will find that the entrance to the church building may have been changed but will be clearly labelled to indicate safe entry.

All locations in the building will be maintaining social distancing of **2 metres**.

We are aware that this may be distressing for those of us who might want to embrace other people, or to shake hands. This may become possible in the future, but not for the time being. Please also keep 2 metres apart when arriving for church and as you are leaving.

## What we need you to do

### Face Coverings/Masks



We are asking you to use a face covering/mask on arrival and through the service, unless you have a medical exemption. Please do try and bring a face covering with you as we will have a very limited stock of disposable masks. Please make sure that you are covering both your mouth and your nose with your mask and that you don't take it off until you are outside after the service.

### Hands



We will also be asking you to carry out hand hygiene on entry by using hand sanitiser. This will be available for you when you arrive. A steward will be on hand to point you in the right direction.

## Catch it...

If you do cough or sneeze, please try to use a tissue or handkerchief and then put it in the bin. If you don't have one the NHS recommend that you cough or sneeze into your arm to reduce droplets from spreading and that you either wash your hands or use hand sanitiser.

## Test and Trace

We will be asking you to put your name and telephone number on a register of attendees so that contact tracing can be carried out if necessary. This information will be kept for 21 days and then shredded.

## Social Distancing



This is also an important part of reducing the risk in the building.

Please make sure that you stay 2 metres away from people that are not in your household group/bubble on arrival and while you are in the building.



We enjoy spending time together but keeping our distance is another way to care for each other in these times. Sometimes we forget- so there will be reminders on entry, and after the service.

Seats in the church will be set out at the recommended distance of 2 metres apart, and you will be able to sit with people in your household or support bubble up to six people. We are requesting that chairs are not moved and that when you have sat in a chair that you do not move to a different one.

We know that worship will be different for some time and that we will not be able to sing.

We are exploring ways of sharing communion but we will let you know in advance how we will be sharing in this together in a safe way. We will also need you to speak the Lord's Prayer quietly and we won't be sharing the peace or sharing in fellowship after the service for some time.



Once you are ready to leave the building you should follow the instructions from the steward to help us leave while maintaining 2m distancing, we also ask that you use the sanitizer provided.

This is unfortunately the 'New Normal' for now but not forever!

# Worshipping in the Building

## Living with Covid-19

### *A Users Guide*