



Moving Forward Together

From 19th July the government plan to make all restrictions that have been in place during the pandemic optional and a matter of personal choice. We know that many of the restrictions we undertake are not for our own benefit but for the benefit of others and the Church of England has encouraged caution, especially in light of the increasing rate of infections. As we move forward together we will prioritise bringing back those things that make the greatest difference to our worship, whilst keeping in place some measures that will hopefully mitigate the risk of infection. Some of the things we are asking you to do, such as distancing and face coverings. As such, we cannot insist but in the spirit of the call to love our neighbour we ask that you do

The changes will come into place on Sunday 1st August. I understand this is 2 weeks after the government restrictions are eased but we need to write and action a new risk assessment and gather volunteers to step back into certain roles. Please bear with us.

What is changing?

- Singing can resume indoors (whilst wearing a face covering). This will primarily be at the Morning Worship service rather than the 9am Holy Communion.
- Refreshments can resume.
- There is now no limit on the number of people who can gather inside.
- Saturday Coffee and other activities can resume.

What are we keeping the same for now?

- We strongly request that you continue to wear a face mask during the service unless you are exempt.
- Hand sanitizer will continue to be available at the beginning of services and we will continue to sign you in.
- We will retain socially distanced seating. At the moment there is no issue on numbers for Sunday services as we are below the capacity when social distancing.
- We will continue to administer Communion in two kinds with the Priest intincting. We will offer the peace from where we are (when following a service that includes it). The priest will continue to set the altar, rather than having members of the church family bring up during the offertory

Things to bear in mind.

There are some people within our church family for whom the easing of restrictions is causing anxiety, there may indeed be people who had returned to in person worship but, now the restrictions are easing, feel at risk.

Where it's practical interaction outside is still safer. When you are gathering inside, it is still advisable to keep a bit of distance between you where possible.

Please do not assume that everyone is happy to go back to physical contact and close social interaction, you may need to ask or read body language. There are many reasons why someone may choose to remain cautious.

These decisions will be reviewed in mid-September by the PCC.

Occasional Offices

For weddings and funerals, the recommendations will stay the same as above, but we will offer flexibility with regard to capacity, whilst ensuring that vergers, clergy and organists are able to maintain social distancing.

Clinically Vulnerable

If there is anything that we can do to help you feel comfortable in church, please do let us know. We will continue to live stream services on Facebook and offer Home Communion/Pastoral Visits.