

## **What to expect when attending a service in Church**

Following the lifting of all legal restrictions on 19 July, the Church of England has issued guidance to say that each church, that is the Priest and the PCC must make their own local decisions about how we move forward with services and any restrictions we would like to keep in place. Whilst this is very welcome it is still a challenge as we consider all members of the church family and seek to keep each other safe.

After an initial discussion with the Churchwardens and given that rates are still rising we are going to proceed cautiously.

We will still operate a booking system for services in order to help with Track and Trace should it be needed. Please continue to book by telephoning 07858 412023.

For the moment we would like to encourage the continued use of face coverings at least on entry and exit and whilst in close proximity to others.

We will continue to use every other pew for seating though you are welcome to sit with someone else if you both agree that is ok.

We will begin to reintroduce the singing of hymns and will start with singing the first and last hymn each week. Singing is a higher risk activity with the possibility of more droplets being spread so wearing a mask would reduce some of the risk.

For Communion services, for the moment we will continue to receive in one kind.

These moves forward will be frustrating for some and be welcomed by others and they are now only advisory. Please do bear in mind that all our circumstances are different and some will be happy to remove face coverings whilst others will continue to choose to wear them.

Please bear with us and with each other as we continue to navigate through these extraordinary times.

What we have decided for now will be reviewed regularly as time progresses.

**Funerals** *(please see above information)*

- Funerals are now allowed to go ahead with no limit in numbers but it may be that we will ask people to wear face coverings depending on the number attending and whether people are comfortable to be sat close to one another.
- Singing is allowed but again, there is still a possible risk involved so face coverings may be required.
- We will ask you where possible to use the NHS Track and Trace QR code on entry or give us a contact phone number so that we can pass them on to NHS Track and Trace should we be asked to do so.

**Burial of Ashes**

- Burial of Ashes can go ahead.

**Weddings** *(please see above information about services in church)*

- Weddings can go ahead with no limit in numbers but it may be that we will ask people to wear face coverings depending on the number attending and whether people are comfortable to be sat close to one another.
- Singing is allowed but again, there is still a possible risk involved so face coverings may be required.