

## **Returning to Church for Public Worship**

### *A prayer as we return to church*

Father,

The doors of our Church are open wide once more beckoning us to enter after this period of lockdown. Each one of us carries in our hearts and minds a vast mixture of emotions and uncertainties for the future. As we enter may we be filled with a desire to re-dedicate ourselves to help each other and those in our community to grow in faith and love of you.

We pray that you will still our restlessness and fill us with your grace in the knowledge that all which may challenge us is surmountable because you are with us.

May this building once more ring out its voice of praise and prayer for you. May we as a parish community flourish and fulfill your calling to love and serve our neighbour.

We ask this in your dear Son's name,

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

We are delighted that we will be able to resume public worship in our churches on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July. Whilst we look forward to welcoming everyone back to church, things will inevitably be different to what we have been used to. This short information sheet outlines some of the things you can expect when you come to church to allow us to worship together safely.

It goes without saying that you should only attend worship when you feel ready to do so – we will continue to offer online worship on “Zoom” during the week, and we will attempt to stream our 11am Sunday service for those who are not yet ready, or unable, to attend in person.

### *Hygiene and Social Distancing*

When you arrive at church please sanitise your hands using the sanitiser provided at the entrance.

You will notice that the seating has been set out for social distancing. Please do follow the guidance of those stewarding the service. While we will do our best to find you a seat near your usual place, please be understanding that due to social distancing regulations we may not be able to do this. You can of course sit together with members of your own household.

### *Forms of service*

Our aim is to have Holy Communion as often as possible on Sunday mornings. However, due to the fact that many of our retired clergy who assist in our services may still be shielding, there will be a mix of Holy Communion and a Service of the Word.

The advice we have been given is to keep the services as short as possible for the time being. Sadly, singing is not permitted for the time being due to the increased risk associated with droplet and aerosol spread. Likewise, we encourage you to make any congregational responses in the service quietly.

Each week, a new order of service, incorporating the weekly “pew sheet”, will be produced which you can take home with you or dispose of at the end of the service. These will have

been quarantined before use. This is to minimise the risk of spreading the virus through contaminated surface.

We will not pass the plate at the offertory. Instead, if your giving is via cash or envelopes, please place your offering in the plate at the back of church when you arrive.

Holy Communion will be distributed in the bread only, and will be received standing up in a single line with appropriate hygiene and social distancing measures. Please follow the instructions of those stewarding the services.

We will not be able to serve refreshments at the end of the service for the time being, and we encourage you to leave promptly at the end of the service.

#### *Children and Young People*

As always, children and young people are welcome at our worship. For the time being we are not in a position to be able to start our Sunday School or Sunday Club.

We are sadly not able to offer any books or activities for children, so it may be that you wish to bring your own.

#### *What if I am shielding?*

If you are in the “Clinically Extremely Vulnerable” group, or are still shielding, *it is advised* that you do not yet attend worship for your health and safety.

#### *What if I have covid-19 symptoms?*

If you, or anyone in your household, has currently tested positive for covid-19, or if you are experiencing any symptoms of covid-19, you should not attend church for the protection of others. Common symptoms include: a new continuous cough, a high temperature, a loss of or change to your usual sense of taste and smell.