



# Pattern of services from mid-September

As we know, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives in many ways, but some things have begun to open up again, and church is no exception. In July we were able to resume our mid-week and Sunday 8am communion services while continuing with those we livestream, but we have been looking at how we might, while not returning to normal, offer more services in our two buildings while remaining compliant with the various government and Church of England regulations in order that we do our utmost to keep everyone safe.

To this end we asked people in a questionnaire whether or not they were likely to attend resumed but restricted services, and 55% said they would, 22.5% weren't sure and 22.5% said it was unlikely they would (total responses were 134). Thus there is a clear appetite for resumption.

Therefore, at its meeting last night (11<sup>th</sup> August), after a full and careful consideration of the matter, the PCC agreed to the following pattern of services from 20<sup>th</sup> September, assuming there has not been a change in regulations in the meantime – which is of course **great news**, as we have all been missing our times of fellowship together

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month</b>	9am Holy Communion, 10.30 All Age Service - St John's, 10.30 All Age Communion - St Luke's
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month</b>	9am Holy Communion, 10.30 Morning Worship with children's groups but no creche (not allowed) - St John's 10.30 All Age Service - St Luke's
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month</b>	9am Holy Communion, 10.30 Holy Communion with children's groups but no creche (not allowed) - St John's 10.30 All Age Service - St Luke's
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month</b>	9am Holy Communion, 10.30 Morning Worship with children's groups but no creche (not allowed) - St John's 10.30 All Age Service - St Luke's
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month</b>	9am Holy Communion, 10.30 Morning Worship with children's groups but no creche (not allowed) - St John's 10.30 All Age Service - St Luke's
<b>Wednesdays</b>	10.30 Holy Communion - St John's

**NB** the plan is also **to continue to livestream** one of the two 10.30 services each week for those who prefer to worship in this way.

## RATIONALE

Now this pattern represents a clear change from what was present before lockdown, but it was felt that

- a 9am instead of an 8am service would make our weekly Sunday communion more accessible (at present we only get 8 or 9 people)
- children's work was possible at St John's but not St Luke's, hence why all St Luke's services have to be all age

- parade services would not resume at present due to potential numbers involved and because uniformed groups as far as we know are not meeting at the moment
- such a pattern was sustainable with the resources we have

## KEY POINTS

- Naturally there will be limits on congregational numbers to allow for social distancing, and it may well be that we implement a booking system – details will be communicated.
- Limits on capacity at St John's also means that we are considering asking parents to take their children direct to their venue rather than join with the adults for the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the service and collect them from the venue at the end.
- Children will be placed in 3 distinct 'bubbles' of a maximum of 15, hopefully according to age – if demand is higher than capacity, we will have to look at alternatives.
- We are not allowed to provide a crèche because of government regulations.
- The youth and children's work is dependent on us having sufficient team members willing to go on the rota.
- Service times will be shorter, partly to make sure children's work is not too long or because the service is all age, but mainly because we will not be allowed to engage in congregational singing.

## COVID -19 COMPLIANCE

- We will expect people to wash their hands before leaving home, and to use the hand sanitiser as they enter and leave the building
- There will be a one-way system in operation
- Face masks must be worn unless there is a genuine medical exemption
- Seating will be suitably spaced. People from the same household/bubble will be able to sit together
- Communion will be *one kind only* (i.e. people will receive only the bread)
- A record will be taken of who attends for contact tracing purposes
- Cleaning – all venues – i.e. the 2 churches, St John's Hall and the East End room - will need to be cleaned after each service. People will need to volunteer for this (details to follow) – **OTHERWISE WE CANNOT PROCEED**. Thus, it should be that for the foreseeable future, people should see part of their attendance at church as involving cleaning – so perhaps we can see this as an act of humble service and regard it as integral to our worship.