

St JOHN'S AND ST LUKE'S - COVID PRACTICE FROM 19th JULY 2021

Advice of St Benedict -we should 'so arrange everything that the strong have something to yearn for and the weak nothing to run from'.

- There will be no limits on **attendance**, but we will still encourage booking via EventBrite and keeping of attendance registers –though we cannot insist – for test and trace purposes in the event of a Covid case.
- We will continue to encourage use **QR codes** at entrances for the same reason.
- **Hand sanitiser** will continue to be provided at entrances and key points such as toilets.
- **Social distancing** – while not required by law, nevertheless:
 - Seating will be configured to allow more space between rows than was the case pre-March 2020
 - There will be a clearly defined zone where people who wish to continue to practise social distancing can do so
 - There will be a 'red card' system to allow people to request others do not sit next to them
- **Face coverings** - the government **expects and recommends** that people wear face coverings in enclosed settings – we will ask people to wear masks when moving around the church, when singing and when coming up for communion. People can of course wear masks at all times should they wish to do so.
- There will be no restrictions on choir/music group numbers, or on congregational **singing** – though masks are to be worn by the congregation if they are singing.
- The number of songs during a service may still be limited.
- **The length of services** will still be kept shorter than pre-Covid.
- **Live-streaming will continue** to allow for those who wish to watch online.
- We will ensure doors and windows are left open for **good ventilation**.
- **Revised risk assessments** will be completed for both churches.
- **Risk assessments** are required for all activities, including from hirers and off site activities such as Thirst. The Rector has the right to challenge aspects of events management if they conflict with our own risk assessment for other activities. Hirers can make use of the available template and tips in the **Events and Attractions** guidance
- There will be no limits on the number of people who can attend **weddings, funerals and other life events**, but where appropriate, the above will apply to these services.
- We will consider resuming the rota for **sidespeople** at St John's.
- **Communion**
 - The Peace to be shared without handshakes/hugs
 - Still no common cup
 - People to still come up one by one – we can have 2 stations if required – but no rails
 - People to wear face masks as they come up to receive, as do clergy/people distributing
 - We will follow good hygiene when preparing the bread and wine e.g. we will keep the elements covered
 - We will continue to use wafers
- **Cleaning** of touchable surfaces to continue.
- We will **close the building for 48 hours** if a person with a known case of COVID has been in the building

CHILDREN'S GROUPS AND YOUTH WORK

There are no longer any legal restrictions on children and youth groups, and it is no longer required to keep children in 'bubbles'. This applies in all contexts, wherever groups are meeting. Sensible cleaning and hygiene practices such as use of hand sanitiser gel are still a good idea. This means children's groups and crèche will happen as before Covid, volunteers permitting.

SOCIAL EVENTS AND BUILDING HIRE

The government's Events and Attractions guidance <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-covid-19/events-and-attractions> applies to churches and should be taken into account by those managing church buildings, as well as anyone hiring or otherwise running events in church buildings.

CATERING - There are no longer any restrictions on serving food and drink, and people no longer have to be seated in their households or bubbles to eat and drink. We will still consider ways to protect those doing the serving and washing up, such as providing gloves and appropriate cleaning materials. Government guidance that face coverings are expected and recommended in crowded and close-contact settings should be taken into account

The Well Being Café and Thirst can re-open with no restrictions in place, although government guidance that face coverings are *expected and recommended* in crowded and close-contact settings should be taken into account.