

WHAT ARE WE DOING TO KEEP WORSHIPPERS, CLERGY AND STAFF SAFE?

Additional notes to supplement the Risk Assessment

1. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT for the CONGREGATION

1.1 TRACK AND TRACE

To assist with the national Track and Trace programme, worshippers must give their name, address and contact phone number to the Welcomer who will record it on a list for that service only. To comply with GDPR, this list will be securely held for 21 days and then destroyed. We do not share a pen – only the Welcomer handles this list and the pen. The Welcomer has been DBS checked in compliance with our Safeguarding policy.

1.2 SEATING CAPACITY

The seated capacity is 30 persons (this does not include the priest).

There are individual seating places for 28 individuals (at the extreme ends of the 14 pews which have not been taped off). If a household bubble attends, they may sit together in a pew, but the overall capacity of the congregation (including the Welcomer) must not exceed 30 persons.

1.3 SOCIAL DISTANCING & HYGIENE

This remains at 2m throughout the church building. People will be reminded of this by prominent signage. Worshippers must use hand sanitizer on entry. Gloves are not an acceptable substitute (a poster to this effect is now in church).

1.4 FACE MASKS

National advice from the Church of England is that these are voluntary at present. A small number of masks (while stocks last) is available at the back of church in exchange for a donation to Wetherby Foodbank should worshippers wish to acquire one.

1.5 AVAILABILITY OF TOILET FACILITIES

In the first instance, we do not intend to make our toilet facilities available to the public. (We do not yet have the capacity to implement necessary cleaning protocols). Should this situation change, the toilets will be made available.

2. LITURGICAL ENVIRONMENT AND PRAXIS

2.1 ORDERS OF SERVICE

In order to avoid waste, our orders of service are not 'single use' / disposable. Since services are more than 72 hours apart, we leave service booklets which have been used in the choir vestry (a room not accessed by anyone throughout the week) laid out individually on a table between services. As an alternative, worshippers who intend to regularly attend the Wednesday service may take their order of service home with them and adopt it as their own, and are encouraged to put their name on it when they get home.

2.2 SHARING THE PEACE

We do not shake hands or offer any form of physical contact. We acknowledge one another's presence in another way, led by the priest.

2.3 THE COLLECTION

We do not pass a collecting plate around. A collection basket is available on the way in and out. It may be possible on occasion to have the SumUp machine available to use for card donations, and where this happens it will be near the hand-sanitizer dispenser with this being used before and after each transaction.

3. THE LORD'S TABLE PROTOCOLS FOR PRIESTS

3.1 Physical layout The altar is further back in the chancel than usual and the priest alone takes the whole service, including readings, from behind the altar. There are no servers: the priest is the only person to handle communion vessels.

3.2 Hygiene Immediately before the service, the priest washes their hands with hot, soapy water.

3.3 Lavabo+ Before laying the altar for Communion, hand sanitizer is used by the priest.

3.4 Eucharistic Prayer The bread and wine are not left uncovered on the altar during the Prayer of Consecration. An additional corporal is used to cover the bread. The bread and chalice are not touched by the priest during the Eucharistic Prayer itself. The priest wears a face covering whilst saying the Eucharistic prayer (since the bread and wine are in close proximity in front of them).

3.5 Eucharistic elements The priest's wafer is kept entirely separate (on the paten) from the wafers for distribution in the ciborium: the two are never mixed or handled together. No part of the priest's wafer is distributed to the congregation. The wine is not shared. Gluten free wafers are kept in the aumbry at can be retrieved for use upon request.

4. DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

4.1 The words of administration are shared and responded to corporately before the distribution.

The guidance: At the giving of Communion, the president receives Communion in both kinds. The words of distribution are spoken to the congregation, and all who intend to receive say, 'Amen'.

At the distribution, Holy Communion is administered in silence. The consecrated bread or wafer will need to be dropped into the hands of communicants.

4.2 Receiving communion In a much slower process than is customary, members of the congregation come up one at a time down the central aisle, receive the bread – or a contact-free blessing if they cross their arms over their chest – and return via the south aisle.

4.3 The priest wears a facemask throughout the distribution.

