

Worship During the Pandemic

Thank You.

First, a big thank you. It has been wonderful in recent weeks to be able to worship together in our church buildings once again. I am sure you would agree that we owe a huge debt of gratitude to all those who make this possible. Under the current restrictions this has meant a lot of hard work behind the scenes. Aside from the Ministry Team, this includes churchwardens, sidesmen and women, Paul Timms, our faithful music director, as well as a committed workforce of men and women who make sure the buildings are cleaned carefully before and after each time they are used. We are doing everything we can to make sure that worship in church is as safe as it can be for all those who want to join us.

Looking forward.

To make sure that we can keep the doors open for worship on Sundays as well as for private prayer during the week, we do need everyone who attends to also play their part. We have to abide by regulations which the Church of England has given us based on the government guidelines. These are in place to help keep everyone safe. This means we have limited capacity in our buildings as we must keep to 2m social distancing and it might mean that not everyone who wants to, can attend every week.

Visiting the Church Building for Public Worship.

Managing the safety of the people when we meet together is a big responsibility. Please read the directions that follow carefully so that you know what is expected of you when you come to a church service in person. Whilst all this seems strange to us and we long to return to some sense of normality, these simple guidelines offer a way for us to demonstrate our love for one another and to all who want to join us in worship in our church buildings.

1. Please make sure that you notify Sarah Derbyshire, our benefice administrator, of your intention to attend a service by Friday 12 noon, before the Sunday in question – officeannabenefice@gmail.com . Sarah does not work on the weekends so will not pick up emails until Monday if you email after this time. If you miss this deadline, please email Katrina: revdkatrina@gmail.com , who will let you know whether there is space for you. Please note: if you arrive at church on a Sunday without advising us in advance, that you intend to come we cannot guarantee you will be able to attend the service – it will depend on whether there is still capacity. So please do book in advance to help us make this work.
2. Please follow the directions you are given by our wardens and sidesmen and women. They have kindly offered to serve our church in these roles, so please honour their efforts by doing what they ask of you. This includes wearing a facemask, sanitising your hands, signing in and sitting in the places to which they direct you. It may be that you do not mind being less than 2m from others, but others may not feel comfortable being closer than 2m from you. This is a challenging but important way of showing our Christian love for one another.
3. When you are directed to leave your seat for receiving Holy Communion or to leave the church building, please do so when asked. This is especially important at the end of the services, in order to not create a bottleneck at the door which would break social distancing and put people at risk.

Visiting the Church Building for Private Prayer.

1. If you are visiting the church building during the week for private prayer there are some extra things for you to do to help us manage the building safely. Please sign in and sanitise your hands as usual. But please take one of the cards and leave in your seat, to indicate where you have sat. This will help us when preparing for the building for use at other times.

Online Services.

Do remember that we remain committed to provide online worship every Sunday at 12 noon and 6pm, as well as daily night prayer at 6pm.