

WORSHIP IN OUR CHURCH BUILDINGS – RULES AND CHANGES

Key points and rules for all church services that **MUST** be observed at all times

- If you have any Covid-19 symptoms or share a home or bubble with anyone with Covid-19 or you in self-isolation because of track-and-trace, please DO NOT attempt to enter.
- Those who are in the Clinically Vulnerable Group* can attend worship at their own risk.
- Volunteers who are in the Clinically Vulnerable Group may undertake activities within their church, subject to the agreement of the PCC/Incumbent.
- Those who are in the Clinically *Extremely* Vulnerable Group should continue to follow the shielding advice from the government. It is therefore advised that anyone in this category should not engage in worship or volunteering *outside* of their own homes at this time.
- An advisory ‘cap’ of 30 has been set for funerals, weddings and baptisms. This is an absolute maximum and cannot be legally exceeded except for funerals where vergers will not be included in the 30.
- There is no numerical ‘cap’ on other services, but social distancing and Public Health requirements must be met. We have set our own number. This is as follows:
 - 9 single people in the Lady Chapel at St Michael’s for an 8am service, when this becomes possible. Possibly more by arrangement for family / social bubbles.
 - A maximum of 29 single people in the nave, north and south aisles of St Michael’s for the 9.30am Sunday service. This can be increased to an absolute maximum of 58 where two people can sit together legally (family or social bubble)
 - A total of 58 as above in the nave, north and south aisles of St Michael’s for the Wednesday midweek service **at 2pm**
 - All Saints Church, 10 couples, 2 family groups of 3 and 6 singles
 - Seating is in designated areas only. Please follow the guidance when you arrive
- Because of the restricted numbers, all those attending must book a place prior to arriving for both parishes. (see below and separate sheet for contacts)
- The two-metre ‘rule’ will apply, even in church grounds, also entering or leaving church – please observe ground markings if queuing to enter and when leaving church. You will be guided how to leave in an orderly manner.
- Entrance is via the level access entrance only for both churches.
- Wearing of face-coverings is voluntary.
- Hand sanitizer must be used entering and leaving church. This will be provided.
- Government guidance includes a request for names of attendees to be recorded and kept for 21 days to assist ‘track-and-trace’ if required. For every service, baptisms, weddings, funerals, public worship, you will be asked for your name and contact number if we do not have this already. Your details will not be used for any other purpose but you must tell us immediately if you become unwell and test positive for Covid-19.
- Please note signs providing direction of movement and restrictions around church.
- The memorial areas will be inaccessible – you will not be able to light a candle, but you can do this online.
- Service sheets, pew sheets, hymn books or bibles will not be available.
- The organ can be played but singing, chanting and playing of brass or woodwind instruments is not allowed.
- There will be no Junior or Infant Church or quiet play area or activity bags for children.

- Only sit on the pews/chairs that are marked 'please sit here'. Do not sit at the aisle end of a pew. For the side aisles – please sit as near to the wall as possible.
- Remain seated throughout the service & do not stop in the aisles to talk or hug one another.
- There should be no sharing of the Peace through physical contact.
- Children must hold their parent/carer's hand whilst moving to/from their seat.
- There will not be any refreshments available after each service. Please do not gather before or after the service in social groups on church grounds.
- The toilet will be open for urgent use. Please note hygiene/cleaning notices must be observed
- A register of attendance for school points will not be kept.

For Holy Communion services, there is continued suspension of the Common Cup. Guidance includes:

- No Offertory processions where the bread and wine are brought to the Communion table.
- At the giving of Communion, the president only receives Communion in both kinds. The words of distribution, 'The body and blood of Christ', are spoken to the congregation, and all who INTEND to receive say, 'Amen'.
- Communicants will be encouraged to sanitize their hands before receiving the bread.
- Communicants should not come to kneel at the altar rail, but instead they should form a line (at St Michael's) maintaining two meters distance to receive the bread, standing, from the priest at the chancel step. At All Saints, please come forward one by one as directed.
- At the distribution, Holy Communion is administered in silence. The consecrated wafer will be dropped into the hands of communicants.
- The bread should only be administered into the hand with care being taken by the president not to touch communicants' hands. If this does happen, both the president and communicant should sanitize their hands immediately.

Once you have read the above guidance and have made a decision to attend worship in church, please call Hannah or Neil to book a place. Should we be full and not have a space available you will be offered the first available place for the following week before other bookings are taken.

Booking A Place to Worship in Church

Hannah McMahon: 07958 369571

Neil McClure: 07568 765379

* *Clinically vulnerable people are those who are:*

- *aged 70 or older (regardless of medical conditions)*
- *under 70 with an underlying health condition listed below (that is, anyone instructed to get a flu jab each year on medical grounds):*
- *chronic (long-term) mild to moderate respiratory diseases, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema or bronchitis*
- *chronic heart disease, such as heart failure*
- *chronic kidney disease*
- *chronic liver disease, such as hepatitis*
- *chronic neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis (MS), or cerebral palsy*
- *diabetes*
- *a weakened immune system as the result of certain conditions or medicines taken (such as steroid tablets)*
- *being seriously overweight (a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above)*
- *pregnant women*