

What can you expect- coming to St Mary's in the Covid emergency?

It will be lovely to be back in church, but it is going to be strange for now. Eventually we will get back to normal but for a while we must do things differently for the sake of one another.

Before you come

- We would love to see you, but it is really important that you only come if you are feeling well. If you are feeling unwell, look after yourself by staying at home and in so doing, you will be looking after others.
- We will not be handing out service leaflets, books and readings. The 8am service can be found by looking up Common Worship Holy Communion 'Order 2' online, and you can print off your own copy of it to bring, or follow it during the service on a smartphone or tablet. For the 10am service a service order can be downloaded onto your phone or tablet from the church website.
- Please check on the website if there are any ticketing requirements to ensure that social distancing is maintained inside the church.
- Please wear a face covering (surgical grade preferred) in church out of respect for others.

Entering the Church

- Please enter by the North side doors keeping 2 metres away from other people.
- You will need to use the hand sanitiser on entering.
- Every church has those regulars who are well known in the community and it has visitors. We are obliged to keep a register of people attending so please don't be offended if we ask for your names and a contact phone number. This list will be kept securely for 21 days and used by the NHS track and trace to alert you if anyone at the service subsequently demonstrates symptoms of Covid-19.
- A collection plate for loose collection or contactless giving is available at the back of church.
- Please sit where a chair is provided and do not move it. The position of these has been carefully measured to ensure safe social distancing. If a 'bubble' of you have come to church, then please ask for extra plastic chairs to be put out. You will need to sit to the side so that the extra chairs used for your group don't impinge on the social distancing regulations.
- Please maintain an atmosphere of quiet reverence before the service begins.

During the service

- There will be music in church at the 10 am services. However, please do not join in with any singing. This is not allowed at the moment.
- There will be no taking up of the offertory during the service. Plates will be at the back, together with a contactless payment terminal, for your offering.
- The peace will not be shared physically. We encourage you to stay in your place and to bow and/or smile to those around you as a greeting of peace at this time.
- In the communion service the priest will take careful measures to ensure hand hygiene and will have the wafers covered with a linen cloth while saying the prayer of consecration over them.
- The priest alone receives the wine, and then distributes the bread.
- The priest will say the words of administration (e.g. 'The Body of Christ, given for you...') once over the bread, and communicants will receive it in silence. The priest who administers communion will wear a face covering at the time of administration.
- Communion should be received standing, and stations at a suitable distance will be marked on the floor. Wafers will be dropped into the cupped hands of communicants. Anyone who cannot stand to receive communion should remain in their place, and communion will be brought to you.
- Please observe the one-way system and social distancing as guided by the sidespeople and any floor markings when you go forward.
- Please use the hand sanitiser before you receive the wafer.
- Please return back to your seat paying attention to the one-way system.
- We will, of course, respect the decision of anyone who does not wish to receive communion physically, but simply to attend the service as an act of spiritual communion. Unfortunately, we are not permitted to lay hands on people's heads to give a personal blessing in present circumstances.
- Toilet facilities are available during the service in the pavilion accessed by the south side doors. Please ensure that you use hand sanitiser before entering and on leaving the toilet.

After the service

- Much as we would like to chat and catch up please save any conversations and catching up with one another until you are outside so that you do not hold others up at the door.
- Please leave quietly and quickly, paying attention to the social distancing guidelines.
- The collection plates will still be available if you wish to make your offering now.
- Please leave by the South side doors.

This is going to feel strange for all of us so please bear with us and, if you are visiting, come back and see us when we can give you a proper welcome.