

## Covid-19 Protection - Keeping the Message Simple

When church is reopened, it is important that we fall in line with and act to the spirit of current government guidelines. Our primary objective as upholders of safety procedures is to minimise the potential of infection as far as is reasonably practicable. To this end we will be enforcing procedures (outlined below), these are copied directly from the government website, to which we receive daily updates.

Where possible, there will be a number of masses per week. Midweek masses are quieter and may be an acceptable alternative for you to attend.

All masses will go ahead only if there are sufficient stewards available to carry out all of the duties required of them. There may be occasions that Mass (or other service) may have to be cancelled at short notice due to lack of availability of stewards. Although disappointing we have to face the possibility of this happening.

It is expected that, should you feel unwell for any reason, that you stay away from church until you are fully recovered.

Please remember that if you are unable to come to Mass, there are a number of online Masses which you can follow, please see the church website for some examples.

Regarding face coverings;

**Please make sure your face covering covers all of your nose and mouth at all times**

If you are exempt from wearing one, you will still be expected to wear a face visor. In this case you will be placed in the transept and a socially distance of 2m will be maintained at all times, including when you go for communion or queue for any reason. There are floor markers spaced at 1m so please allow 2 markers when queuing.

### **Definitions from the Government website**

Time updated:2:20pm, 11 January 2021

Where possible, when visiting a place of worship you should stay local and avoid travelling outside your local area, meaning your village or town, or part of a city.

### **Face Coverings**

In England, face coverings are required by law to be worn in places of worship.

There are valid exemptions for some individuals and groups to not wear a face covering in these settings. In particular, those who are leading permitted services or events in a place of worship, and those who assist them.

## **Face visors or shields**

A face visor or shield may be worn in addition to a face covering but not instead of one. This is because face visors or shields do not adequately cover the nose and mouth.

## **When you do not need to wear a face covering**

In settings where face coverings are required in England there are some circumstances where people may not be able to wear a face covering.

Please be mindful and respectful of such circumstances. Some people are less able to wear face coverings, and the reasons for this may not be visible to others.

This includes (but is not limited to):

- children under the age of 11 (Public Health England does not recommend face coverings for children under the age of 3 for health and safety reasons)
- people who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability
- where putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause you severe distress
- if you are speaking to or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expressions to communicate
- to avoid harm or injury, or the risk of harm or injury, to yourself or others – including if it would negatively impact on your ability to exercise or participate in a strenuous activity
- police officers and other emergency workers, given that this may interfere with their ability to serve the public

## **Social distancing**

Social distancing measures are actions to reduce social interaction between people in order to minimise the opportunity for transmission of COVID-19.

All venue managers and all visitors to a place of worship must follow the law and should follow the guidance on social distancing including:

- adhering to social distancing, meaning people should be 2 metres apart or more than 1 metre apart as well as taking extra steps to stay safe (such as wearing face coverings) to reduce the risk of transmission
- for frequently used places, mark areas using floor tape or paint to help people maintain social distance
- visitors must not mingle with anyone outside of their household or support bubble when attending a place of worship