



COVID-19
St Winnies Re-visited.
Return to Mass (Government Update 19 Jan 21)



Introduction

Our returning mass goes since July will have seen procedures alter with time enabled by our current safe system of mass.

This version of FAQs is to answer some questions you may have.

What's happened so far?

On 4 January the Prime Minister announced a national lockdown for all of England.

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.

Changes since COVID-19

- In England, face coverings are required by law to be worn in places of worship.
- Everyone entering the church will **wear a face covering**. There will be **no exceptions to this rule**; face shields can only be worn if you can't wear a face covering, it is not an alternative.
- All Holy Water stoups are dry to prevent transfer of infection.
- Hand sanitiser dispensers have been fitted to the hallway entrance and you are expected to use these on entry to and exit from the church. Additional hand gel bottles have been allocated to the entrance to speed up entrance and exit to the church. Individuals who have reactions to using sanitiser gel are requested to wear and to maintain wearing gloves during their time in church.
- You will be greeted by a one-way system, shown by markings on the floor, taped off areas within the church and allocated seating points. Yellow and black markings are on the floor at 1m spacing to help you gauge distancing. Use these if you wear a face covering, **2m spacing if you are wearing a face shield**.
- Anyone wearing a face shield will be seated in the transept. On going to receive communion etc. you must maintain 2m distance from others at all times.
- Any worship aids (missalettes etc.) should be for single use and taken with the user when the Mass ends. They should **not** be left in the church at the end of Mass.
- Do **not** bring in your own Missals etc. into church for the time being.
- The maximum occupancy of this church is 110 (as pre determined by the diocese for the Christmas period). It is a mixture of household/social bubble single seat occupancy. However for the time being and until adequate control can be maintained against infection, maximum occupancy of this church will be maintained at 76.
- All seat placings within the church is allocated to satisfy COVID-19 safety requirements. You must accept where you are placed, it has been done to satisfy safe maximum occupancy as far as is reasonably practicable.

- In the unlikely event you have to queue, please maintain your COVID safe distance.

Will I have to wear a facemask?

Face **coverings** are for everyone over 11 years old except in the following circumstances.

- People with breathing difficulties
- People with disabilities
- Anyone with someone who relies on lip reading
- Young children should have adult supervision when wearing a face covering.
- Your face covering must remain in place covering your nose and mouth apart from when you receive communion.

However during this time of COVID variants, you are not permitted in the church without a face covering or face shield, it is for everyone's benefit.

People who are symptomatic

Anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell) should not attend the place of worship due to the risk that they pose to others; they should self-isolate at home immediately with other members of their household. Remote participation should be considered, for example by live streaming (see the Parish website for details). This applies equally to individuals who work at the place of worship.

How long will the Mass last?

- The Mass length will be about 30 minutes in accordance with government guidelines.

Will there be any singing?

- Due to infection restrictions imposed, there will be no congregational singing at Mass. Father may play background music where appropriate.

How often will the church be cleaned?

- The volunteer stewards will clean the church after each Mass.

How will the offertory work?

- You are encouraged to sign up for payment online, details for this can be found on the church website. There will still be an offertory plate found just inside the church should you prefer to do this. Please do not touch the offertory plate and have your donation ready beforehand to help prevent bottlenecks. A steward will probably be in attendance at this point to control the potential for bottlenecks.

- Regular cleaning and hygiene of the offertory plate will be maintained, and gloves worn to handle cash offerings where giving continues.

How will Communion work?

- Communion will be given at the usual position within the Mass by 1 or 2 ministers.
- Parishioners from individual benches will then be guided by stewards, a bench at a time, maintaining social distancing (**1m with face coverings, 2m with face shields**). Please wait to be invited to leave your bench for communion.
- Please make sure you wear your face covering at all times apart from when receiving the host.
- Standing, the communicant, with outstretched arms and flattened, stacked hands will receive the host.
- The communicant will then follow the one-way system back to their seat.
- If you have mobility problems please let yourself be known on entry to mass and a minister will bring communion to you.

How will Track and trace work?

You are encouraged to use the NHS QR code track and trace system too. These are found at a couple of places around the church. Failing this, please give details of yourself or your group to the steward. There is a separate note on track and trace information usage for those who may have concerns.

At the end of Mass

- Please remain seated until your bench is invited to leave by your steward.
- Sanitise your hands on the way out
- Please make your way home without engaging with other families/friends/bubbles

The wording which has allows us to worship is very strict;

“You cannot leave your home to meet socially with anyone you do not live with or are not in a support bubble with (if you are legally permitted to form one).”

“You cannot meet other people you do not live with, or have not formed a support bubble with, unless for a permitted reason..”

“Once [*Mass*] completed, participants should be encouraged to move on promptly, to minimise the risk of contact and spread of infection.”