

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, HOLMBURY ST MARY

COVID-19 RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE RESUMPTION OF CHURCH SERVICES INCLUDING HOLY COMMUNION (Version 02.12.2020)

RISKS:

Transmission of the Covid-19 virus by:

- Direct contagion through person to person contact
- Airborne transmission through aerosol droplets
- Transmission through touching a surface contaminated with the virus

MEASURES DESIGNED TO MITIGATE THESE RISKS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE:

At all times, we will:

- Make it clear, on our website and by notices around the church that anyone who thinks they may have Covid-19, who is showing any symptoms of Covid-19, or who is in the same household or bubble with someone else who thinks they may have Covid-19, or is showing any symptom of Covid-19, **should not come to church.**
- Advise those who are at additional and extreme risk from infection by Covid-19 not to come to church; however, the decision whether or not to do so lies with each individual themselves.
- Maintain online links for those who are not able to come to church.
- Continue to remind attendees of current government and Church of England guidelines regarding social distancing and good hygiene practices.
- Provide hand sanitiser for use on entry to and exit from the church, and at need.
- Ensure that the church is well ventilated.

At church services:

- Face coverings should be worn by all those attending a place of worship, unless they are exempt on health grounds, including ministers, worshippers, staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors, where there may be other people present; remembering that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer, from Covid-19, and that they are not a replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing.
- **Hand sanitiser must be used by all on entry and exit, and at need.**
- Those attending will have their name and a contact phone number taken, so that they can be contacted if anyone present subsequently develops symptoms of Covid-19.
- Anyone attending who subsequently develops symptoms of Covid-19 should contact NHS Test and Trace, and also inform the minister or churchwardens immediately, so that others may be advised of the risk of transmission. In this event, the church will be locked for 48 hours thereafter.
- We will endeavour to maintain 2m social distancing at all times.

- Worshippers and visitors are asked to catch coughs and sneezes in the crook of their arm, and to leave the church if the coughing or sneezing fit persists. Used tissues should be taken back to the user's home for safe disposal, to minimise the risk to those cleaning the church.
- The congregation (other than the choir) and visitors should not enter the chancel itself.
- At our more popular services, markers will indicate where people are to sit, and where not, in order to maintain 2m social distancing. Those of the same household or bubble may sit together between markers.
- Sidespersons will be on hand to direct people to their seats, to invite them to come up to receive communion, and to ensure that they leave the church maintaining at least 2m social distance. Worshippers should remain in their seats until otherwise directed by the sidespersons.
- Where service books are provided, they are for each worshipper and should not be shared. They should be left on the chairs at the end of the service.
- Where a service sheet is provided for each worshipper or household group, these should be taken home after the service.
- Congregational singing is not permitted at present.
- The Peace will be exchanged by gesture only, without contact, and maintaining 2m distance.
- Communion will be taken standing in front of the screen. Communion will be in one kind only, as use of the common cup is suspended. Communicants will be asked to approach via the central aisle, and return to their seats via the side aisles, when invited to do so by the sidesperson.
- Regretfully, there will be no children's activities in church or in the Church Room until further notice.
- The seat backs will be cleaned after each service. A long lasting disinfectant will be applied to surfaces regularly. However, worshippers and visitors are advised to touch surfaces as little as possible.
- Giving by contactless means will be encouraged. Cash and envelope donations will be quarantined for at least 48 hours.

Toilets and the Church Room:

- The Church Room will remain closed until further notice; however, the toilets may be used during church services. Hand sanitiser will be available, and must be used on entry to the room. Hands must be thoroughly washed after using the toilet, and dried using the disposable paper towels (provided). Taps and door handles touched will be cleaned with a disinfectant wipe (provided).