

## **Covid guidance for worship at St John's** **Version 2 – updated 13 September 2020**

This document sets out details about the shape of our worship and the necessary changes we are making in accordance with public health guidelines during the Covid pandemic. Our worship will be rather different to normal, and we ask you to take note of the following advice, implemented in line with Church of England guidance, to ensure the safety of everyone who attends. It is necessarily detailed, and while we must all take appropriate precautions, we hope you will still feel the measures do not prevent you from engaging in our worship and meeting with God.

At present we are offering two acts of worship each week:

Sunday            10am Eucharist  
Wednesday      7pm Eucharist (starting 23 September)

We are adding a Wednesday service to give as many people as possible the opportunity to participate in live worship. Please note that much of the service on a Wednesday (readings and prayers) will be the same as on the preceding Sunday.

### **Booking to attend services**

- As there is a restriction on the number of people we can accommodate at services while maintaining social distancing, we require you to book in advance to attend services. This ensures we can safely manage capacity. You will need to book separately for each service you wish to attend.
- If you have access to the internet, you can book online to attend services via Eventbrite, using the church's page at <https://stjohnsbeeston.eventbrite.co.uk>. Bookings open on a Monday at 6pm for services on the following Sunday and on the Wednesday following that (i.e. nine days ahead). Booking will be open until around 24 hours before each service, and there is a waiting list if all places are taken.
- Those who do not have access to the internet can book their place by telephone with our Admin Assistant Kathryn Weller at specific times. Details will be advised on the weekly paper mailout that is sent out to those on our distribution list.
- We are making a set number of places available via online booking and via telephone. We will do our best to accommodate everybody and will adjust the number of places available by each method as required. If you book and find you can no longer attend, please cancel your booking on Eventbrite or let us know so we can reallocate your place.
- If you will be attending with members of your household group or bubble, please book together or indicate this when you book so we can configure the layout in church to allow you to sit together. Children and young people should be booked as part of your group if they require their own seat.

### **General advice**

- Doors will open half an hour before each service, and we ask that you arrive at church no later than 10 minutes before services start to ensure everyone can be seated safely.
- It is now a requirement by law to wear a face covering in places of worship for each other's safety unless you are exempt from doing so. If you are exempt, please do not feel discouraged from attending and participating in our worship – all are welcome.
- Entrance to the building is via the west door, as usual. Please make use of the hand sanitiser provided each time you enter the building.

- Chairs will be arranged to comply with two-metre social distancing. Please follow the instructions of stewards. Please maintain a distance of at least two metres from anyone outside your household group or bubble at all times.
- The details of those attending services will be collected to assist NHS Test and Trace with requests for data if needed for contact tracing and the investigation of local outbreaks. These details will be held for 21 days and will not be used for any other purpose. The required details will be collected when you book to attend the service.
- Toilets will be available in the church building but on a limited basis. Please check with a steward before using and ensure only one person is using the space at one time.

### **During the service**

- We will be providing a printed, single-use service sheet for each service. If you book online to attend this will be e-mailed to you ahead of the service. Please take the sheet away with you at the end of the service.
- Instructions will be provided in the service sheet as to when you may wish to stand or remain seated, and some of these are different to what you would normally expect in our services. If it is more comfortable for you to remain seated, please do so.
- Responses during the service should not be spoken in a raised voice to reduce risk of transmission.
- We will not be physically exchanging the Peace, but you are invited to greet those sat near you in an appropriate and safe way.
- There will be no offertory collection during the service, but there will be a plate by the door on leaving church at which you are invited to make a donation.
- There will be no congregational singing during the service. On Sundays we will have organ music and we are pleased that a small choir will be able to sing a hymn and an anthem at Sunday services from 20 September. Please try to resist the urge to join in, even though this will feel a bit strange to begin with. On Wednesdays there will not be a choir or organ music, but we plan to include some different music, varying on a week-by-week basis.

### **Receiving communion**

- Due to public health considerations we are not able to share the common cup, so only the Priest will receive communion in both kinds. Provision for this practice is made in canonical doctrine.
- All who would normally receive communion in their own church are welcome to do so here. To minimise public health risk, we ask you to remain in your place and the Priest will come to you to distribute communion. The words of distribution will be said once before the congregation receives communion, to which all are invited to respond.
- Each communicant should extend their hands to receive Holy Communion, with their face covering in place. They should then lower or unloop their face covering, consume the consecrated bread, and then replace their face covering.
- Gluten-free wafers are available on request.
- If it is not your practice to receive communion, please keep your hands by your side and the Priest will say a prayer of blessing for you without making physical contact.

**At the end of the service**

- You are invited to remain in your place during the playing of the organ voluntary on Sundays if you wish to do so, but on conclusion of the music we ask you to leave promptly and safely using the fire exit door on the north side of church. Please do not congregate within the building and please use the hand sanitiser provided as you leave.

**Online worship**

We continue to offer a range of online services and reflections, principally via our YouTube channel. Sunday morning's online worship will include much of the same material that is contained in the service in church.