

Corona Virus – Covid-19 Information:

St George's Sunday Services

St. George's is holding a service each Sunday morning at 9:15am
The following social distancing measures will apply for the protection of all.
Please read and follow the guidelines below.

Church Services:

We will have a service at St. George's church each Sunday at 9:15am

There will be no midweek services or 8:00am services. Baptism, wedding & funeral services are subject to local, national government and Church of England restrictions & guidelines. We are not able to run Café Church at the moment.

It may be necessary to cancel a service at very short notice [for example if there is an outbreak affecting the school and access is not permitted].

Please do not attend:

- If you have symptoms or a diagnosis of Covid-19 / Coronavirus
- If you are in a household where a member has symptoms or a diagnosis of Covid-19 / Coronavirus
- If you have been asked to isolate as part of a contact tracing programme

You may wish not to attend: **If you are in a high risk or vulnerable group**

We have produced a risk assessment and update this in line with the latest information & guidance from the Government and the Church of England. We believe that we have minimised the risk as far as is possible provided everyone follows the guidance on hand sanitisation and the social distancing measures in place. If you have any concerns or want further information, please see the websites listed at the end of this sheet or contact the clergy / parish wardens.

Pattern of Services:

The services will be all-age communion services or family-friendly Services of the Word.

Arriving at Church:

Please follow all the guidelines concerning social distancing and note that attendance will be capped.

- You may have to queue along the path outside before entering the school via the main doors at 2m / 6 feet intervals, to avoid crowding or blocking doorways
- Entrance will be via the main door
- You will be asked to register on entering so that we can have a contact tracing system in place. Attendance sheets are stored at St. Bartholomew's church [for easier access] for 21 days and destroyed. This is NOT a school form attendance register.
- Alcohol gel will be available to clean your hands. You will be directed into church through one of the side entrances following a one way system
- **THERE WILL BE A CAP ON NUMBERS ATTENDING of about 35 people.** People will be asked to sit in families / groups / bubbles where possible. We will try to admit everyone, but if safe social distancing cannot be maintained, we will have to look at a booking system.
- **Face coverings are mandatory in line with Government regulations for all those over the age of 11 unless they have a medical exemption.**

Within the Church:

Social distancing will be strictly observed.

- The layout of seats will be very different [no longer simply rows facing the front]. You will be asked to collect a chair from the chair rack on entering and asked to sit in a particular area of the hall. Please follow the instructions as we seek to fit everyone in safely distanced.
- Doors will remain fixed open to avoid people touching door handles / door panels
- No books will be handed out
- There will be a table with service sheets. You will be invited to take one and you must take this home with you; please do not leave it behind. As much as possible may be done on-screen

- The offertory plate will also be on this table. There will be no offertory taken during the service.
- Please do not gather in groups to chat or block entrances / exits or routes around the building

Children / Young People's provision:

We are not able to offer Sunday School due to distancing and limited access

- Families must sit together in church for the duration of the service.

The Service:

The form of the service will be very different to comply with Church of England guidelines.

As an example

- Services will be shorter and the content differ from week to week
- Robes may not be worn
- There will be less movement during the services – no standing / moving around
- Congregational singing is not allowed at any services;
- A sermon may not be preached if printed on the pewsheets
- Sharing the peace is not allowed
- *[At communion services, only the bread will be administered; the altar rails will not be used and people will be advised to remain in their seats and the priest will come to them to administer communion]*

After the service:

We are not allowed to serve refreshments and you are asked to leave quickly.

- Please leave in a socially distanced manner following the one-way system and the designated exits. There will be people directing this to limit crowding around chair racks / entrances & exits.
- Everyone will be asked to take their own chair back to the chair rack.
- Do not congregate to chat especially if this blocks exit routes and exit doors.
- You may gather in a socially distanced manner outside the building away from the doors for a chat

School Form Signing:

There is new guidance in place and attendance can be registered from 13th December

- Church attendance can now be recorded but we cannot do this in ways that would be unsafe, break social distancing rules or put anyone attending at risk of transmitting or catching Covid / coronavirus.
- We have, therefore, suspended the forms that were signed at St. George's / St. Bartholomew's and the cards that were stamped at St. Thomas' churches to avoid sharing pens, paper and crowding around tables for signing / stamping cards which all break distancing regulations.
- **From Sunday 13th December, if you do attend a service within the team or would have attended a service had restrictions not been in place** [i.e. you would have attended St. Thomas' church, a Café Church Service, an 8:00am service] or where you cannot attend due to limits placed on attendance, **please e-mail:**

bdhww.churchattendance@gmail.com

giving both your name / your child or children's names and the church you would usually attend.

- You will need to do this even if you attend a service and sign in as these sheets are for contact tracing purposes only and must be destroyed after 21 days.
- Only one e-mail per week will be counted [even if you would have attended more than once in any week].
- Please do NOT use any other e-mail address to register church attendance as these will not be included.

Please contact us:

Team Rector: Revd Carol Pharaoh 01942 859251 carol.pharaoh@gmail.com

Team Vicar: Revd Angela Wynne 01204 468150 revawynne@gmail.com

Further Information:

Please see also the Parish website www.westhoughtonchurches.org.uk

Please see also the Church of England website

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

Or e-mail the Parish Office westhoughtonparish@outlook.com [NB not staffed 24 hours]

Please note that this is a rapidly changing situation which is being updated frequently. We will aim to provide the latest information available.