



**COVID 19 Recovery: Safely Resuming Public Worship
St George's Church, Stalybridge
Diocese of Manchester, Ashton Deanery**

*Draft 1st July 2020. Agreed by PCC by email 2nd July 2020
Prepared for Sunday 5th July to be reviewed weekly alongside Risk Assessment*

Numbers are limited.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals

30 max – this is a Government requirement, regardless of the size of the venue/how many we can seat with social distancing.

Further notes to be added once guidance is received.

Public Worship: Numbers and Distancing

With 2m distance (recommended unless unavoidable) there are 28 pews available.

Measuring the church we have: 11 pews 1 person/household (in side aisle) and 17 pews 2 people/household (central nave)

Members of the same household can sit together in the same pew.
Separate households, if sitting the same pew should keep 2m apart.

Wearing of face-coverings is voluntary

As per Government advice “While those at extra risk and the ‘clinically extremely vulnerable’ should be advised of the risks of attending public worship, a decision to do so is theirs alone.” This includes those over 70, those shielding and in vulnerable categories.

Doors are to remain open for ventilation

One way system in operation on entry

It is a national requirement by Ecclesiastical Insurance (EIG) that stewards on duty or those involved in cleaning, must not be over 70 years old or in any vulnerable/shielding category.

They should not participate in reading bible readings or intercessions.

Service Times

Sundays 9am & 10.30am Eucharist

Tuesdays 10.30am Eucharist

People are to be encouraged to attend at a different time to 10.30am if they possible can to spread numbers out.

Stewards will need to carefully assist people in sitting in the correct seats and making use of the seats available.

Orders of Service

To be single use.

Will contain bible readings and notice sheet in one document. These can be published in advance of Sundays, those who wish can download them to tablets/phones if they do not wish to use a printed copy.

Other books removed from church/not in use

Length

Services are to be kept short and this will be borne in mind when compiling them. It is important to recognise that we are not yet returning to “normal” Sunday worship. This is the first step along the way!

Collection

A plate is to be left at the door and handled by one person only.

Online/standing orders continue to be encouraged where possible.

Readers/Intercessors

For Sundays at 10.30am no one on the rota is *expected* to attend and participate but may if they so wish. (Those over 70 are still advised to stay at home and pray – they should not be asked to participate in reading or leading intercessions).

Alternatively, the priest will lead the intercessions and a volunteer will be asked to read the bible reading on that day.

At 9am and Tuesdays at 10.30am the priest will read the lessons and lead intercessions. Those who would have been on the rota will be contacted.

Music

Singing is not yet permitted therefore each service will be said. There can therefore be no choir.

The Director of Music will play before and after the 10.30am Sunday service and a piece during communion (no hymn tunes... because we'd all want to join in!)

At the Altar

No servers on duty. No offertory procession.

The chalice will not be shared. People will receive in one kind only.

Individual hosts will be used (instead of concelebration host broken) in order to reduce touch. These will be placed in vessels with sanitized hands.

The bread will be covered during the Eucharistic prayer and not touched until distributed.

The priest will wear a mask for the distribution and use tongs to drop wafers into people's hands using tongs to reduce possibility of touching

The priest will sanitize their hands before and after distributing Holy Communion

Receiving Holy Communion/Blessing

Stewards need to indicate to pews one row at a time.

People are to queue (socially distanced) in the aisle and receive Holy Communion (bread only) standing then return to their seats.

People should sanitize their hands using the gel in the nave before receiving Holy Communion.

The altar rail is not to be used.

Communicants and those who wish to receive a blessing are asked to stand on the opposite side of a prayer desk to the priest and stretch their hands out to receive Holy Communion.

Blessings will be given without touching the person

When the priest receives the bread and wine, those who intend to receive Holy Communion are invited to respond together, Amen. Holy Communion will then be given to individuals in silence.

Celebration Candle

This will remain online for the time being

Junior Church

Junior Church will continue to meet online via Zoom on 5th July and 12th July.

On Sunday 19th July at 3pm Junior Church Service for Junior Church families and helpers, marking end of school year and prizegiving

Before and after services

Before: People should enter as per the directions set out in church for private prayer only.

They should sanitize their hands on entry.

Stewards should make a note of names of those attending wherever possible. It is advised this record is kept for 21 days for "track and trace."

Service booklets should be on pews ready where possible.

People should go straight to their seats and not congregate in the lounge or church

After: To ensure social distancing, it is encouraged that the stewards invite aisles of seating to leave at different times, e.g. North aisle first, then South, North Nave, then South Nave. This will be announced at the end of the service.

People should leave church and not congregate in the church or lounge.

Cleaning

Church will need to be cleaned between 9am and 10.30am on Sundays (please bear in mind services will be short and therefore allow for this).

2 volunteers will be needed for this (in addition to the priest).

Church will also need to be cleaned after 10.30am on Sundays in preparation for Tuesdays service.

If a funeral is taking place in church, additional cleaning will be completed as required.

Pew cushions have been removed from the pews which are in use to allow the whole surface to be sanitized between uses.

Communication

Required signage is displayed in church

Stewards will be needed to assist people.

Announcement of public worship from 5th July to be made via phone calls to as many possible, parish email newsletter, website, A Church Near You page, Facebook, Twitter and in the parish magazine.

The newsletter and Facebook etc will show photos of the layout in church and what is to be expected.

Toilets to remain closed

Kitchen to remain closed. No refreshments after services

Other Activities/Use of the Building

Further advice to be issued by Government therefore all remain suspended for the time being.