

## Resumption of public worship in Tarporley Parish

### How Our Sunday Service Will Look: (Applicable to St Helen, St Thomas and St John's.)

1. To help with social distancing at St Helen's we continue to operate a **one-way system and ask you to enter by the North Door (the one closest to the Swan) and leave by the South Door (the Lychgate side)**. Signs will be in position to remind and guide everyone.

With smaller number involved, St Thomas and St John's can safely use the main door to enter and exit.

2. Please **sanitise your hands on entering and leaving**

3. Please **maintain social distancing** at all times. *I know you will all want to chat and sit together but please do so whilst following the current guidelines*

4. **Masks are now mandatory in Church although anyone leading the service, speaking publicly within it** (such as reading a lesson or leading intercessions) **or singing as part of a choir is exempt whilst engaged in that activity**. So please remember to bring and wear a mask. We must however remember that **some people are not required to wear them even when it is mandatory**. As the government guidelines say: there are some circumstances, for health, age or equality reasons, where people are not expected to wear face coverings. Please be mindful of this, noting that some people are less able to wear face coverings, and that the reasons for this may not be visible to others.

5. Sadly for the time being **the congregation cannot sing** during our services and because of the restricted and enclosed space in the Tower at St Helen's **bells cannot be rung**.

6. To help with social distancing, we may have to **restrict access to some pews, please observe the signs and keep 2m apart from others who are not part of your household**. *I know that this will be difficult for those who have a favourite seat which is temporarily out of use but please take the opportunity while it lasts to try different views of the church!*

7. We now feel able to return to the use of our **printed orders of service. Rather than being handed to you, these will be left on the table as you enter**. Please do not share copies with anyone outside of your household and at the end of the service place them back on the table as you leave. At St Helen's booklets for Sunday and Wednesday services will be kept separate and because this church remains open during the week will be locked away, all books will therefore not have been touched for a week and be 'clean' when next used.

8. **Communion**: Anyone involved in preparing the table (and for an interim period this will just be clergy) will sanitise their hands and use the minimum number of clean cloths and utensils.

**Wafers remain covered whilst the prayer of Eucharist is spoken.**

**We only distribute wafers.** (The priest consecrates a small amount of wine and consumes this on behalf of the entire congregation)

**The clergy will sanitise their hands before preparing and again before distributing.**

**The clergy may not say any words as they offer the bread and will wear masks.**

**To ensure social distancing:** at St Helen's, first the organist and choir will be given wafers in their pews. Then the congregation, **continuing, as far as possible, to observe social distancing measures** (the heating grilles in the floor at St Helen's are a good guide to a 2m distance), will approach the sanctuary in single file. To stop any possibility of infection via the communion rail, **all will receive the wafers, or blessing, whilst standing.** To help with flow and social distancing we ask you to **return to your seat via the side chapel.** *If, for any reason, you would prefer not to leave your seat, please let us know before the service and we can bring wafers to you.* **At St Thomas and St John's, the wafers will initially be distributed to the congregation as they sit in the pews.**

9. So that no pressure was placed on anyone to return rotas were suspended at St Helen's and clergy have been fulfilling all roles. However now the clergy will be travelling to all three churches help will be needed. Moreover, having worked so hard to increase the fellowship, presence and voices in our services I am keen to encourage this. We will therefore **soon be resuming rotas for the roles that can be undertaken** under the current guidelines.

**However, if you are asked to resume a role and feel it is too soon for you to return to church, please let the person who organises the rota know and we will organise cover until you are ready.**

10. Sadly, at the moment we **cannot serve refreshments;** at the end of the service and when weather permits **the minister(s) will leave and to prevent** any risk of a bottle neck at the church door stand outside. When clergy have to take another service elsewhere, they may have to leave immediately to get to the next service to set up. Please leave the church when you feel comfortable (and continue to observe social distancing).

11. We will not include a collection during the service, but our collection plate will be left out and **we welcome donations as you enter or leave.** Like everyone else over the last few months, our income has dropped because we have not been able to receive collections (safe receipt and counting of monies will follow the latest guidelines.)

12. To continue to minimise risk **we have removed items** that might be touched by many hands such as church leaflets and guides. **Carers are welcome to bring their own books, crayons, soft toys etc for use by their own family.** *Open Worship will not resume until we can all join in the hymns and so the first Sunday of the month at St Helen and St Thomas will be a service of Morning Prayer.*

13. For the same reason at St Helen's we have removed the prayer request book and matches in All Souls Chapel. **Candles will be refreshed** and left in situ each day and we ask you to either light a candle from one that is already lit or **bring with you (and take away) your own matches** or lighter.

14. To improve air flow and circulation **we will as far as circumstances allow keep church doors open during the service.**

15. We plan to re-open **the Done Room Toilets for use on Sundays** by the end of September. They will be checked for cleanliness before opening and cleaned thoroughly afterwards **but we will not be able to monitor them in-between.** **Please maintain social distancing and wash your hands thoroughly.** *Please do not use any other part of the Done Room.*

16. We remain **unable to accept Food-bank donations** because Mid Cheshire Food-bank is not yet able to receive them other than through supermarkets. You can still donate with physical items in store as you do your own shopping or with cash online through their website.

*With every blessing*

*Georgina*

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