

Changes to services in the wake of restrictions being lifted.

St Mary's PCC met on Wed 21st July. Amongst other things, we discussed how current practices might change as restrictions have been lifted. The shape of our Sunday services will change slightly as from Sunday 25th July.

- We are no longer required to take details from those attending, although the QR code will be displayed for those using the app.
- Face coverings are no longer mandatory, but we recommend their use inside the building.
- Hand sanitiser will still be freely available and we encourage its use throughout the service.
- All pews will be open (and the seat pads replaced!)
- There will be no requirement for the congregation to leave 2m between themselves and the next person. However, we encourage people to be considerate of others' personal choices.
- The seats at the rear of the church remain spaced apart for those who would prefer to keep to social distancing guidance.
- We can sing indoors!!!

The way we distribute Communion was also discussed. We will trial the following for a few weeks and make adjustments if necessary.

- The president and an assistant will remain on the platform. Where possible there will be two 'stations', one for each side of the church.
- Individuals will be invited forward by a warden/duty officer, coming forward down the centre aisle, one or two at a time.
- The wafer will be dipped in the wine using the tongs as before and dropped into the outstretched hands of the receiver.
- The individual then returns to their seat via the side aisle, removes their mask if they are wearing one, and consumes the sacrament.
- The president will consume the wine at the end of Communion.

If anyone prefers not to receive, they can come forward for a blessing. Should anyone be less mobile, a blessing or Communion can be brought to them (as happened pre pandemic).