

Note to those returning to worship at St Thomas'

We're in a position to restart worship on **Sunday 9th August** and we're very much looking forward to gathering once again as a congregation!



Be prepared, however, that church will look and feel different, probably for some time.

We really hope that you're able to join us, **BUT...**

If you're not well (especially if you're exhibiting Coronavirus symptoms or have been in contact with someone who is) **please do not attend!**

If you're on the official Government list of those who are deemed as **clinically vulnerable** to Coronavirus or have been shielding others up until now, then we ask you to give very careful thought about whether you should attend worship (*however much you're desperate to do so and we'd love to have you join us*). If you're unsure or would like to chat this over with Fr Chris, then you're very welcome to do so. If you're not able to attend church, we will continue to find ways to keep you in the loop and within the fold.

Things that should still be **as usual**:

- worshipping God and offering our prayers as a congregation
- hearing the scriptures read
- hearing music as part of our worship on a Sunday
- receiving communion. (albeit in one kind only)

Things that will be **missing**:

- kneelers
- singing
- shaking hands at the peace & passing the collection plate.
- the shared chalice
- refreshments after the service
- sitting closer than 2 metres to people who aren't part of your household/ bubble.

Things that will be **different**:

- hand sanitiser gel *must* be used on arriving and leaving church
- **face coverings should be worn.** By the time we return, they are likely to be legally required unless you are exempted from doing so. (In order to aid communication and lip reading, clergy may possibly not wear masks whilst they're at a sufficient distance from the congregation but *will* wear one to greet at the door and to administer Communion.)
- people will need to keep their distance
- doors will be kept open to allow good ventilation (best to dress accordingly!)
- 2 metres between rows of chairs
- the side aisles are not being used for now
- you will find green & red symbols on chairs to indicate where to sit to maintain social distancing. (if you are a household/ bubble attending together then you can sit together)
- a slightly stricter 'flow' system for receiving communion
- lingering to chat in church after the service to the clergy and each other (*it's still going to be best to give the clergy a call if there's something you'd like to discuss in detail*)
- **Contact Tracing cards.** In case it turns out that someone in the congregation has contracted Covid-19, we need to be able to trace people. This will be a simple card to fill in at your seat with your name and phone number which we will keep securely for 21 days before destroying safely.
- if you've got children with you, please bring some toys/ colouring from home for the time being.

The final thing to say is that we're not planning to use a 'booking system' unless we really need to **but** it would be really helpful if you could let either the wardens or Fr Chris know if you're planning to attend, just so we have an idea of numbers. You can use the *Eventbrite* link at <https://wigstonbenefice.org.uk/regular-services-events/> or by using the contact details below. **Look forward to seeing you again!**

If you have any questions: please contact Fr Chris or one of the wardens

Fr Chris: revchrisjohnson.wbs@gmail.com 0116 2782830, Pauline Footman: 0116 2234051, Kate Martin: 0116 2911493