



## Attending Worship at Atherton Parish Church During COVID19

### What To Expect!

#### Before you arrive:

- To maintain social distancing we can only accommodate 44 people at a service, so we will ask you to book ahead to avoid disappointment. You can book by calling 07761 133042 on a Thursday or Friday evening between 7:00pm to 9:00pm. You will not be able to leave a message or call at other times. You will be asked for your name, number of seats and contact number.
- Your contact details will be kept for 3 weeks after the service and given to Track and Trace if someone from the service later tests positive for coronavirus. They won't be used for any other reason and if they are not needed for this purpose, they will be securely disposed of after 3 weeks.
- We ask you to consider your own risk of attending an indoor gathering. While we will be taking a number of steps to keep you safe, we cannot make this risk-free. You might want to look at the NHS guidance if you are over 70 and/or have an underlying health condition, on whether you are at higher risk of coronavirus and be guided by their advice: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/people-at-higher-risk/whos-at-higher-risk-from-coronavirus/>
- We ask you NOT to attend the service if you have:
  - o A new cough
  - o A temperature
  - o Lost your sense of smell or taste
  - o Are awaiting a Covid-19 test or result
- You may want to bring your own hand sanitiser
- You are welcome to wear a mask/face covering. Please remember that face coverings protect others from your germs – they are not very good at protecting you from other people's germs. They are not a replacement for good social distancing, hand hygiene, and self-isolating if you have symptoms.

#### When you arrive

- As you wait to enter church, please be patient and observe social distancing of 2 metres between yourself and other households.
- The welcomer will let people into the building in households/bubbles. You will be asked to use the hand sanitiser gel on arrival, then go immediately to a seat in church. The next household/bubble can then be let in.
- The seats in church will be arranged in twos at 2m intervals from each other and places to sit in the pews are marked by a little card. We ask you to go straight to a seat and remain there for the duration of the service (except when going up for communion or a blessing).
- Gentle music will be playing to help you pray as you wait for the service to begin.

- The South doors will be open to allow some ventilation, so you may notice it is a little cooler than you expect.

#### During the Service

- An order of service will be on your seat.
- The service will be livestreamed on our Facebook page and later on our Youtube channel, but those watching at home will only be able to see those on the chancel e.g. the priest, someone leading the prayers etc.
- Families with children are, as always, very welcome. Please keep children beside you to ensure social distancing. As there is no children's area you may wish to bring quiet activities/toys/books to help them in not moving round church.
- Due to risk of aerosol spread, there will be no singing during the service.
- We ask that when you are saying the responses that you speak quietly and prayerfully – again to reduce risk of droplet spread.
- When we share the peace, we cannot move from our places – we will simply wave or make a sign of peace to those in other households.
- During distribution of communion, only the wafer will be distributed. The priest will wear a mask and sanitise their hands before distribution. One of the wardens will guide each household in turn to receive communion at the chancel steps. You will be asked to use hand sanitizer again before receiving communion.
- If you do not want to receive communion for any reason, that is absolutely fine, a blessing will be prayed over you instead.
- There will be a one-way system in place in returning to your seat.
- If you are unable to receive at the chancel steps please indicate this to a warden and communion will be brought to you.

#### At the end of the service

- After the priest has processed out, a warden will ask people to leave a row at a time. Please wait for the warden to ask you to leave to ensure appropriate social distancing.
- Please place your own order of service in the marked box as you leave church.
- Please do not stop to chat while leaving the building. Once out of the building you are welcome to talk in small groups of not more than 6. Please do not block other people's exit from the building and please remember to stay 2m apart from people from other households.
- If you test positive for coronavirus up to three weeks after the service, please let us know.

If you would like to discuss anything contained in this leaflet then please contact:

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