

The way forward from July 2021

These mitigations and the forward plan have been put together carefully considering the latest advice from the Church of England, the Government guidelines and the number of new cases each day locally. Whilst the law has relaxed the guidelines from both the church and the government place an emphasis on the personal and corporate responsibility of individuals and organisations to protect others and themselves.

- At St Hilda's we want to encourage people back to church
- We want the people who are in church to both feel and be comfortable and safe
- We would like to begin to return to normality but need to retain some adjustments in order to ensure – to the best of our knowledge and understanding – we can stay safe

Seating

We will continue to operate track and trace, require seats to be booked in advance although the spacing will be relaxed

Singing

From Sunday 25th the congregation will be able to sing, from time to time we will have a visiting organist and the choir will sing live, but from the choir stalls, with no processing.

The Peace

We will continue to share the peace from our seats

Offertory

We will continue to refrain from passing the plate and from an offertory procession

Communion

We will continue to receive communion from our seats with only the celebrant moving around

Sanitising / face coverings

Please continue to sanitise on your way in and out of church and wear a face covering unless you are exempt. (The choir may remove their face covering whilst singing). Face coverings may be removed when you are reading the lesson.

Refreshments

We will serve refreshments outside of church, please stay – there will be no tea and chat.

Live Stream

We are aware there are some extremely vulnerable members of our community who are still unable to join us in church. We will continue to live stream services – again reviewing in September.

We realise this may be disappointing to some and we will review our risk assessment again in September, when we hope the current surge of cases has passed. For now, we rejoice in being able to meet together in worship, to sing together and to share refreshments together again.

St Hilda's PCC.