



1st July 2020

ST JAMES' CHURCH, GREAT HORWOOD

◦ HOLINESS ◦ HOSPITALITY ◦ HEALING ◦

St James - Opening the church for public worship – risk assessment

General information

Coronavirus is thought to be transmitted by airborne droplets being breathed in or a contaminated surface being touched and then subsequent touching of mouth or nose allowing the virus to be inhaled.

The following groups of people are likely to develop a severe illness if infected.

- The elderly (70+).
- People with underlying health conditions e.g. asthma.
- People belonging to the BAME classification.

Government advice is that people falling in these vulnerable groups should be 'strongly discouraged' from attending public worship. This is the government's advice but does not constitute a legal ban.

People are recommended to remain a distance of at least 2 metres from other people. This is based on the idea that if two people are talking face to face but at this distance apart, virus-laden droplets in the breath from one person will have fallen well below head height by the time they reach the other person so are unlikely to be breathed in and will also have been subject to dispersion, hopefully, to a level below the critical dose at which a person will be infected. However, the government has suggested that a spacing of 1 metre plus may also provide a high degree of protection if certain mitigating factors are in operation. These factors include:

- People not facing each other.
- Barriers are used e.g. gloves, face coverings, screens.
- People are only in close proximity for a short period of time.
- The building is well ventilated so that any virus is quickly dispersed to a level below the critical dose.

It is a legal requirement that people attending mass gatherings should provide their name and contact details so that in the event of an infected person being identified as having attended that gathering they, and their contacts, can be informed and will be expected to self-isolate for two weeks.

Control measures

In the light of this information, St. James church has set up the following procedures.

1. On arrival at church we will record your presence and contact details. If we already have your details this will be by means of ticking a register. If we do not have your details, then you will be asked to complete a form providing them before entering the church. You will not be allowed into the church for public worship without providing your contact details.
2. Obtaining contact details may slow the rate at which people are admitted to the church so please arrive in good time and, if you have to queue, please maintain the 2m social distance.



1st July 2020

ST JAMES' CHURCH, GREAT HORWOOD

◦ HOLINESS ◦ HOSPITALITY ◦ HEALING ◦

3. On entering the church, please proceed directly to one of the pews available for use and sit down. Try to avoid touching the back of the pew in front of you and avoid talking to people not from your household.
4. Pews that are unavailable for use will be clearly marked or blocked by kneelers. There is a gap of over 1m between pews that are used.
5. A maximum of two people from different households/bubbles may use a pew and should sit as far apart as possible. As many people as space allows from the same household/bubble may share a pew but see point 7.
6. People should remain seated throughout the service except when they move to receive communion of one kind which will be distributed from just in front of the altar rail. They should sit upright at all times, bowing their heads but not leaning forward during prayers so that 1m+ distance is maintained between themselves and people in the pew in front of them.
7. During the communion there will be movement in the aisles. People should walk down the centre of the aisles as directed while maintaining a social distance of about two paces from the person in front.
8. Although there will be recorded music, singing and chants people are asked not to join in. They will be able to join in the spoken responses and communal prayers but should do so in normal conversational tones rather than loud ones.
9. Doors in the church will be kept open throughout the service to ensure as much ventilation as possible.
10. Communion will be administered just in front of the altar rail. The president will wear gloves and a face mask. The recipients should stand with their toes touching the strip of masking tape on the floor and should stretch out their hands, as far as is comfortable for them, to receive. Communion will be taken to anyone who is unable to walk to the front at the end of the administration. People who wish to receive a blessing are welcome to come forward. They should stand with their hands by their sides and bow their heads. The blessing will be carried out without the laying on of hands.
11. People will be guided to be communicated by the Church Wardens. We will use a one-way system going down the main aisle of the church and leaving via the choir vestry to return to your seat.
12. Sadly, for the foreseeable future, we have to exclude the family corner from the body of the church. Happy bags will not be available. Mark's Little Acorns will continue online.
13. There will be a plate by the door for a retiring collection and the card reader and banker's order forms will also be available there. You can also donate via Pay Pal as advertised at the end of our online services which will continue. Any monies collected will be counted, bagged and banked by a designated church officer wearing protective gloves.
14. We are unable to offer refreshments after the service. Dismissal will be via the South door and will be controlled to avoid congestion so please remain seated and patient until given permission to leave.
15. At the end of the service used pews, and door handles, and the toilet will be disinfected and wiped down with disposable paper towels where necessary.