



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, then 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 Laurence 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.
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 are the front pews in the centre aisles (marked as 'Reserved') and those pews where their entrance has been blocked by kneelers. There is a gap of over 1m between pews that are used.
5. A max of 2 people from different households/bubbles may use a pew & 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.



ST LAURENCE CHURCH, WINSLOW

1st July 2020

◦ HOLINESS ◦ HOSPITALITY ◦ HEALING ◦

6. People should remain seated throughout the service except when they move to receive communion of one kind, which will be distributed from the front of the nave. 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. Pew seats adjacent to an aisle have little yellow dots stuck to them which mark a 1m distance from a person in the centre of the aisle. People seated in pews should therefore move to be no closer to an aisle than the yellow dot when that aisle is in use.
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 at the east, south and west ends of the church will be kept open throughout the service to ensure as much ventilation as possible.
10. All communion services will be presided over from behind the nave altar, which has been placed at the front of the chancel. Communion will be administered at the front of the nave. During administration, 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. The administration will take place in silence. Communion will be taken to anyone who is unable to walk to the front of the nave 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 communicated in the following order. It will start from the rear of the north side aisle with these people moving up the north side aisle to reach the front of the nave and then returning to their places by moving down the centre aisle to the back of the church and then up the north side aisle to their seats. Next to be communicated will be the south side aisle, again starting with the people seated at the rear. They will move up the side aisle to the front of the nave and then return to their seats by moving down the centre aisle and return to the side aisle via the cross aisle. Finally, the centre aisles will be communicated again starting from the rear. These people will move up the centre aisle to the front of the nave and then down the north side aisle to the rear of the church before moving up the centre aisle to return to their seats.
12. Sadly, for the foreseeable future, we have to exclude the family corner from the body of the church and stop the Vestry Club and Mini Church activities. Happy bags will not be available. Mark's Little Acorns will continue online and the toilets and the Lowry Suite in the St Laurence Room will be available for use during services.
13. There will be a plate by the South door for a retiring collection and the card reader and banker's order forms will also be available there. You can also donate via PayPal 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 to SLR, the toilets and the Lowry Suite will be disinfected and wiped down with disposable paper towels by designated people, who will then clean their hands by washing or use of hand sterilisers.