

Dear friends,

We write to let you know of our initial plans to reopen the church for public worship beginning the 5 July.

Please note these plans, including service times, are liable to change and evolve rapidly as we adapt to new patterns of community life, so please do check with our website for the latest detail on them.

To start with we will have a single service at 10am. This will be a simple Eucharist. At the same time, we will continue with our virtual live service, as advertised and detailed on our website. The time for this virtual service will be 11.30am, that is it will follow the 10am service.

With reference the logistics of this 10am service.

- We ask you to use either your own or the provided hand sanitiser on entry and exit of the church.
- Please avoid touching surfaces in the church where possible.
- There will be no hymn-books or orders of service provided. Everything you need will appear on the TV screens before you.
- There will be no singing of hymns initially.
- Please observe social distancing of 2m on entry, within, and exit of the church. Inside of the church, there are social distancing markers for your reference.
- Please only sit in designated pews. Each designated spot can take a single person or a small family group. We estimate that a service will have space for between c. 25-50 persons. Other services and service management practices will likely follow to accommodate more people as required. In particular, the addition of another service.
- There will no sharing of the peace and no sharing of the common cup (wine). You will be able to receive communion in one kind (bread) should you wish to. There is no obligation to do so. You will be asked to approach the altar, socially distancing, in single file. Upon reaching the altar, please extend your arms, with cupped hands, as far as possible towards the priest. The priest, extending, their arm will then drop the communion wafer into your cupped arms, without touching them. A one way system of movement will be in operation. Other health and safety precautions will be observed by the Eucharistic minister, including sanitising their hands before and after distribution of the communion wafers.
- Please note, as advised by the government, you will be asked to give your name and contact details to a member of the church upon arrival. You do not have to give this information. If you do, it will be kept only for 21 days in accordance with our privacy policy which may be found on our website, and used to assist the government's track and trace programme if required.
- Please note the church does not have toilet facilities, and the parish hall toilets will not be open initially. This will change in the coming weeks.

Both sets of guidance, [government](#) and [church](#), make reference to certain groups of people who may be at increased risk of severe disease from Covid-19, including people who are aged 70 or older, regardless of medical conditions. We are well aware that the majority of our current church community is above 65 years of age, with a significant fraction above 75 years old. Therefore, please avail yourself of this guidance when considering whether to return to public worship.

Please do NOT attend public worship if you are showing symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell), rather self isolate in accordance with the national guidance.

Please do NOT attend public worship if you are self-isolating due to a possible or confirmed case of COVID-19 in the household, or because someone in your household has been requested to so by NHS Test & Trace.

Please be assured we are confident that we will be offering public worship as safely as possible, and in accordance with the government and church guidance. This guidance, this note, and our various risk assessments may be found online (on our website <https://www.stjameschristleton.org.uk>) should you wish to read them.

This all said, we rejoice that we will shortly be able to meet together. We thank you for your support, patience, and love for one another and the community at this time. We look forward to holding and journeying together in the months ahead.

Be assured of our continuing love and prayers,

Stefan