

St Anne with Holy Trinity Brondesbury

Guidance from 19th July 2021

Introduction

This guidance has been written in response to the decision by the Government to move to step 4 of the 'Roadmap out of Lockdown'. The approach taken by the Government in this step is to remove most coronavirus legislation but to promote guidance that emphasises the personal and corporate responsibility of individuals and organisations to protect others and themselves.

Within the Church we believe that everyone is known and loved individually by God and that as many members within one body we are called to be responsible to and for one another, respecting the more vulnerable whose suffering is our suffering (1 Cor 12:12-27). The move to step 4 means we are being asked to take even more personal responsibility around coronavirus than when we were compelled to adhere to Government restrictions¹.

St Anne's PCC has considered what guidance we as a congregation will continue to have in place, respecting the above. We are also very mindful that we are now entering the summer period when the church is much quieter for worship and for usage. For this reason, we have decided to take these next steps slowly and cautiously; and will review them as the new academic term begins in September.

Guidance

Symptoms

The advice on symptoms remains the same - Please do not enter the building if you have any Covid 19 symptoms or have tested positive or been advised to self-isolate.

Hand and Face hygiene

This advice also remains the same. Please wash hands regularly and use hand sanitiser when entering or exiting our building. Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when you sneeze and use bins provided.

The building is cleaned daily.

Face coverings

While face coverings are not required, we would ask that you wear a face covering when moving around the building or are in close contact with people who are not from your household. Once you are seated you may feel able to remove your mask, but this is a personal choice.

¹ Church of England COVID 19 Guidance from the 19th July 2021 v1.0

Please be mindful that others may have different opinions about you to wearing face masks. You may like to arrive early to church and sit nearer a window. If you are not wearing a mask, please do keep a safe distance from others until they invite you into their personal space.

Contact details

We will continue to ask you to sign in when you enter the building to support The NHS's Test and Protect System or please use the QR code. While you are no longer required to do this, we feel that it is good practice.

Moving around and distancing

Please continue to keep a safe distance when you are moving around the building, and we would ask that if you can you wear a face mask until you are seated. While there is no longer a one-way system, we ask that we are all mindful of each other.

We will continue to keep the building well ventilated with all windows open throughout the service.

Toilets

During August this will be less of an issue as building will have fewer people, however moving forward we are going to continue with allocated toilets for groups as this worked. On Sunday's this will not be the case.

Coming to worship (a snap shot).

1. As soon as you enter the building **please continue to either wash your hands or use the sanitizer provided.**
2. We would ask, that if you can please wear a face mask until you are upstairs and seated in your chair. It is then your choice if you remove your mask, but please do respect those close to you or keep a distance from them.
3. Chairs will remain as they are for now, giving space for people who wish it. If you want to sit next to someone who is not in your household, and they agree, please do so.
4. **We can now sing!** And we will be introducing some singing back into our services, though not everything at once. Again, this is partly as caution, and partly because singing is often hard during August anyway with smaller congregation.
5. **Hymn books** will now be available to those who want them, but the screens will also be used. Individuals can choose. Please do return your book to the stand when you leave, please, so no one else has to touch it!

This will also be the case with service sheets.

6. The peace may take place. As it is hard to know who would welcome a handshake; the suggestion is that during August we continue as we are – smiling, waving or bowing, and then adapt as we move into September.
Similarly, the offertory bowl will remain at the door rather than being passed around.
7. **Communion** will continue to be administered in the same way, with members of the congregation coming forward, and then everyone receiving together once we have returned to our seats. Mother Christine will continue to wear a mask for distribution, and we would ask you to do the same. However, this is your choice.
8. **There will be no refreshments during August**, but people are welcome to stay and chat either in the rotunda or outdoors after the service.

We are aware that for some these changes will feel too fast, for other too slow. We will continue to take small steps over the coming weeks, and will review the next steps.