

## **Coming to worship at St Anne's Good Practice Guidance**

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). We continue to respond to the pandemic and to other concerns within our communities, conscious of our environment, our community and the vulnerable within it. Our feelings about risk will vary, and we seek to be respectful of the differing opinions and needs within our community.

As the risk from the pandemic lessens, and we adapt to new ways, we commit to following the guidance to ensure the safety of our whole community.

### **Self - Assessment**

One of the things we have learnt in the past two years is the value of taking responsibility for our own symptoms, and not meeting with others when we feel unwell. We hope moving forward as a community we can continue to value this wisdom. Please do not come to church if you are unwell. This might be Covid symptoms, or other viruses. Please make choices that look after your health, as well as the impact it might have on others.

### **Handwashing**

Please continue to **wash your hands or use hand sanitiser** as soon as you enter the building as this will help us all to maintain good healthy practices.

### **Social Distancing**

Social distancing in a place of worship is now a personal choice. People are encouraged to respect others who may wish to adopt a more cautious approach.

### **Face Masks**

Face coverings are no longer mandatory in any setting but are recommended in enclosed or crowded places, particularly where you come into contact with people you don't normally meet. Face masks are mainly for the protection of others, not ourselves, so please be respectful of the needs of others.

### **Space**

Our worship and social interactions means we come into close proximity with others. Many people enjoy physical touch – a handshake or hug – others find such proximity difficult (and always have). As we move forward we will need to negotiate the way we interact. If we ask, and are respectful of each other, we can ensure that all members of our community feel safe.

**In the end, we seek to be a safe community in which we can all confidently share the love of Christ.**

## **Practical Guide to Worship from Palm Sunday 2022**

### **Distance, Space and Ventilation**

As you know chairs in the church are back in rows, and social distancing is now optional. If you would rather have some space around you, use one of the signs on the table near the church door which says 'please do not sit on me'. We will continue to ventilate the building during worship, and surfaces are cleaned regularly. Hand sanitizer & tissues are near the door of the church if you need them.

## **Masks**

Face coverings are no longer mandatory in any setting but are recommended in enclosed or crowded places. Mother Christine and the Chalice bearers will wear masks when they are administering communion.

## **The Peace**

During the pandemic we have been sharing the peace through bowing, waving or smiling at each other. Some people may now like to shake the hand of their neighbours, but we need to be mindful that not everyone is comfortable with physical contact. If you prefer not to shake hands, we suggest that you hold your hands together. Please be mindful of the body language of others; and that we all have different needs.

## **The Offertory**

The Offering plate will once again be passed around. You may wish to use hand sanitiser after this before receiving communion, or just for your own peace of mind. You can either bring your own, or it will be available at the door of the church.

## **The Gospel Procession**

The Gospel will now be processed during the service to the middle of the church. As the Priest will be reading the Gospel during this, they will be unable to wear a mask, as some people will be reading lips. If you do not want to be close to this, please sit closer to the windows and away from the aisle.

## **Receiving Communion**

Communion will now be offered in two kinds: bread and wine. It is up to you if you feel ready to receive the common cup – we receive the full grace of God in one kind, so please do what is most comfortable to you.

Those administering communion will wear masks while they are serving you. You may wish to use hand sanitiser before coming forward. Please maintain space from others whilst coming forward and receiving.

The Chalice (the cup we receive wine from) is made of silver, and the wine is fortified – both of which limit spread of germs. After each person drinks from the cup, the rim of the cup is wiped, and the chalice turned before the next person receives. Please do not intinct – dip the bread into the cup. This is a very unhygienic, and more importantly theologically communion is a gift we receive, hence the cup is offered, not something we take (dip).

## **Refreshments**

Refreshments will continue to be served, but as we do not have a dishwasher, at present we will continue to use either compostable cups OR please bring your own cup. Please do not 'double-dip' when taking biscuits or cakes.

**In Summary, we will be a community who respond in worship in different ways. If we continue to be compassionate and respectful we can be the safe and loving community we aspire to be.**