

Covid -19 Guidance for Christ Church July 2021

The government have now issued guidance for churches and communal worship. We will use this until the government advise otherwise and review regularly. Please see here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship>

The Baptist Union guidelines begin with this helpful statement:

We appeal to everyone involved to be kind to each other, to listen well, to appreciate the pressure leaders are under, and to compromise accordingly. This is a very vulnerable time for churches and we ask you to recall the exhortation in Ephesians 4 to 'be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace'.

Our aim at Christ Church is to hold services that are welcoming to all – those who are comfortable with changed restrictions and those who are unsure or anxious. We want our church to be a kind environment where we care for each other by respecting each other's choice. We also expect that our feelings may change over the next few months and hope to offer services where we are all comfortable to worship God together.

Booking You will no longer need to book a seat for a service.

Symptoms Please do not attend if you have any Covid-19 symptoms or have been instructed to self-isolate. Service will remain live-streamed for you to take part in.

On arrival

- Please tell the steward that you are present as we will need to collate attendance information only for track and trace. We will contact you if we receive a venue alert (2 positive tests at one venue) and encourage you to take a test.
- Hand sanitiser and masks will be available.

Masks

- Please wear a mask to enter and exit the building.
- Please wear a mask when moving around the building.
- You are welcome to remove your mask when seated or keep it on if you prefer.

Distancing

- We will keep alternate pews blocked off.
- We will choose activities in the service that encourages us all to face forwards limiting our exposure to risk.
- We will not share the peace and ask that all personal contact is agreed with the other person. Please do not hug without permission!

Seating

- We are not required to sit at 2m or 1m distance anymore.
- Please greet each other and sit at least one blue carpet tile (on pew) away from another group or individual.

Singing There are no legal restrictions on singing anymore.

Ventilation We will continue to ventilate the church as much as possible to ensure a free flow of air.

Bibles Bibles will be back in the pews at regular intervals to be used by individuals at weekly service.

Communion Will be served in the same way. Servers will sanitise their hands but required to wear gloves.

Tea & Coffee While we have dry weather, we will continue to have refreshments outside. We will use the hall for a wet or cold weather alternative. We will continue to use wrapped biscuits.

Toilets We will re-open more toilets as soon as possible.