

Plans for worship post 19th July

As you know, Step 4 of the Government roadmap removed most coronavirus legislation, and now emphasises the personal and corporate responsibility of individuals and organisations to protect others and themselves, urging caution. The Church of England now asks that we take decisions locally. At the heart of our approach is the understanding that, as the Body of Christ, we are called to live out loving concern for the well-being of others. This gives us a shared - corporate - responsibility to take appropriate steps to keep one another safe. We know too that there are a huge range of views on how we should proceed, and are also very mindful of the impact on our worship of refraining from "normal" practices which give us spiritual comfort and sustenance. None of this is easy!

Please see below for the agreed approach in St Marys' framed with love, prayers and careful discussion. Poppy (Rector)

Our commitment to congregations – we will:

Provide live-streaming of 10am Sunday Worship as an alternative to attending in person

Provide hand sanitiser for use when you arrive and leave the building

Ventilate the church building as best we can

Help you to maintain social distancing, using every other pew

Provide pews for those who prefer to sit separately from others

(otherwise, you can sit with friends, with up to six people in a pew)

Share Holy Communion in the safest way possible

(standing to receive and intincting rather than sharing the Common Cup)

Keep our advice under review in the light of changing circumstances over the coming months

We would ask you to please

Wear a face mask when moving around the church, with the option to remove once in your seat if you wish, but please tell us if you are medically exempt.

(Research shows that we can reduce transmission by 25% if everyone wears a mask)

Sing gently or hum! We are delighted to have the return of congregational singing.

(We have decided this is possible because we are wearing masks to mitigate the risks)

Continue to share the peace in our "alternative ways" rather than shaking hands

Keep 1m+ social distance from others, and wait to mingle and chat until you are outside after the service

Thank you!