

Easing of the Lockdown
Safe-Opening plan
As of 12th June 2020
Version 3 – Phase 2 Guidelines

St Mark's Church, David Place

With the announcement by the government that places of worship can now be opened progressively from 12th June, we thought it would be good to start clarifying what measures we are putting in place to ensure that everyone is kept safe and how we can meet and worship together in the best ways over the coming months. This will be a progressive and will regularly be updated as we receive more advice from the Dean and from the government too. It will also be true that different Churches may need to take different approaches due to the size of their congregation and the size of their Church buildings too.

We do intend to continue to stream our services for as long as is necessary, as we know that for many this will still be the safest and most effective way to worship together. Please feel free to do what you feel is best for you at this time.. It has been very encouraging to see hundreds of people joining with us on-line and so let's continue to pray that many will receive the Good News of hope and love during this time.

Here are some of the measures we are putting in place to ensure that you are kept as safe as possible and that the building is clean and safe for all of us to worship in.

A Clean and Safe Church - Infection Control

- ❖ A professional cleaning company has been hired to clean the church once a week.
- ❖ All surfaces, sinks and door handles will be sterilized before and after every service – by the welcomers
- ❖ Everyone's temperature will be taken by the welcomers in the foyer with Infra-red thermometer.
- ❖ Everyone MUST wash their hands for 20 seconds on the way into church, please use the sinks in the lavatories.
- ❖ Please use alcohol cleanser on your hands after washing too
- ❖ Disposable face masks will be available at the door
- ❖ Names will be taken at the door for track and trace purposes
- ❖ Please do not shake hands or "greet each other with a holy kiss"!
- ❖ Move straight to the pews, no gathering to chat in either the King's Well or near the sound desk.
- ❖ Please sit in one pew per family with staggered seating as directed
- ❖ Communion will be offered in one kind only i.e. bread and no wine.
- ❖ If you cough or sneeze, please catch in arm or tissues provided
- ❖ Please keep praying for all our doctors, nurses and those affected by this virus
- ❖ Teas will not be served before / after the service to reduce risk
- ❖ Mini Marks – will not be run at present – ZOOM Kids work may continue
- ❖ SPLASH AND Mark's Sparks will not be run for the moment

HOLY COMMUNION (Max 20 in Chancel)

The chairs in the chancel will have been spaced out 2m apart as per the government guidelines and your service sheet will have been placed on each chair. This will give us room for up to 20 communicants, if we need more space then please use pews in the nave.

At the peace we will say “the Grace” to one another but please refrain from shaking hands

For receiving communion please come down to the altar steps one at a time (keeping apart by taped distance on floor) and receive the bread and then return to the left or right to your chair. We may also offer that the distribution is made to the individuals in their chairs.

FAMILY PRAISE (Max 40 in Nave)

We would plan to seat you in an individual pew or as a family, with staggered seating which means we minimize the possibility of breathing over one another whilst singing **(We are advised not to sing at Present)!** Please do NOT move closer in the pew to your neighbour! We will then designate a pew for each family and put name badges on them temporarily so that there is even less likelihood of cross infection from touched surfaces.

If anyone was especially concerned about social distancing they are welcome to use the balcony too!

FAMILY COMMUNION – 3rd Sunday – For the moment we will not offer Family Communion but when the lockdown is further eased we will.

Funerals and Weddings (Max 40)

The same guidelines for Family Praise will be adhered to for funerals and weddings too. The verger will take names and details of each person coming to the service for contact tracing.

EXIT

**Please feel free to wash and alcohol cleanse hands on the way out of the building
Please phone 720595 if you show any signs of the virus during the week or if you test positive at any stage too
All key door handles and surfaces will be re-sanitised with Anti-bacterial sprays and blue paper after every service.**

Let's keep praying