

Important notes for anyone attending a church service as from 23rd August 2020.

Applies to: Church of the Ascension, Burghclere; St Lawrence Church, Ecchinswell; and St Mary the Virgin and St John the Baptist, Newtown.

Please read carefully

Covid 19

You are very welcome to join us in person in church for worship from 23rd August. We need, however, to minimise and, as far as possible guard against, the possibility of spreading the virus. Therefore, we are adopting the following measures (based on government regulations and CofE guidelines):

1. People with symptoms of the coronavirus Covid19, or who suspect they may be carrying the virus, should not attend.
2. Those who have been shielding, or are in a vulnerable category, are asked to seriously consider whether they should attend in person. Our services will also be transmitted live on Zoom.
3. The church will be closed for 72hrs prior to holding a service. Where this is not possible, we will ensure that the church is appropriately cleaned and sanitised.
4. Everyone attending a service in person will be made aware of the measures we are putting in place. This will be accomplished by:
 - a. Emailing everyone on our mailing list
 - b. Posting this notice on our website
 - c. Putting a pointer to this notice on Facebook
 - d. Displaying relevant notices at church
5. Everyone attending worship will be required to wear a mask inside the church (except the person leading worship, who is exempted for this purpose)
6. Hand sanitiser will be provided at the entrance to the church building and everyone asked to use it on entry and exit.
7. People will be asked to observe social distancing measures whilst inside the church.
8. Areas not needed for our worship will be cordoned-off and all items such as service books, hymn books and items for sale (greetings cards) will be removed or covered.
9. We will restrict the number of people attending worship and places where people can sit will be clearly marked. Families or those already in 'bubble-groups' may sit together. We will fill the church from the front and empty from the back. Movement during the service will be kept to a minimum.
10. No singing will be permitted (to minimise droplet spread)
11. Liturgy will be displayed on a screen. We will not use handouts or give out books.
12. If it is a communion service we will receive in one kind only and receive as directed by the sides-people or church wardens.
13. A collection basket will be provided into which offerings may be dropped. The contents will be transferred at the end of the service into a bag which will be kept securely for 72 hours before counting and banking.
14. No refreshments will be served.
15. Parents will be responsible for their children whilst in the church and should ensure they too follow these guidelines.
16. There will be no physical sharing of the peace.
17. We will keep for 21 days a list of names and contact numbers for all who attend a service so that they can be contacted by Track and Trace should the need arise.