



Re-Opening of St Matthew's

from Sunday 25th July 2021
to be reviewed weekly, especially at end of August

Dear all,

I'm delighted to announce that we are able to go ahead with re-opening St Matthew's for all-together worship from this coming Sunday. That said, coronavirus remains a serious threat, so we will need to have a fair number of restrictions and safeguards in place in order to minimise the risk of transmission.

With the help of the PCC, and a risk assessment being carried out, I can announce the following policy:

- Alternate rows of chairs to be roped off
- Pieces of silver card will be available on the table in the foyer – we encourage attendees to take one of these and place next to them to mark an empty chair between groups
- The wearing of face-masks is encouraged. Those who would prefer not to wear one are asked to sit in the front right corner of the church, towards the fire door
- Everyone should note who is seated on either side of them for purposes of Track and Trace
- QR sign in codes for Track and Trace will remain up, as will a low-key register of attendees
- The current one way system will be maintained
- Bibles will be available for use (please replace in backs of chairs when finished with)
- Coffee, tea & cold drinks will be served outside after service, with single, wrapped biscuits hopefully available. Please take one and move away from the serving table
- A separate table for placing used cups etc. will be situated near the large ash tree to help keep serving area uncluttered
- Those serving refreshments & clearing away will wear face coverings, gloves & aprons
- Children are to stay with their parents throughout the service when it is all-age
- Calm outdoor activities will be laid on afterwards / children are invited to bring a suitable toy
- Coloured cones are placed along edge of lawn near pavement to emphasise edge
- All doors and windows inside are to be open for ventilation
- Services are to be short (aiming for 45-50mins)
- Handwash stations at entry and with coffee
- Physical contact discouraged except fist pumps
- Toilets are re-opened (please go around church if at front)
- Service sheets & large print words are provided (to be taken from table rather than handed out)
- Holy Communion to remain bread only
- The following maximum numbers will be in place: 80 persons in church (with musicians seated on stage), with a further 10-12 seated in the foyer once clear (not for high-risk)
- Outside there should be a maximum of 40 persons on the west side of the front lawn by ash tree, 15 max in central area, and a further 35-40 max on east end of lawn (where calm children's activities are held). Wardens to keep an eye on, and encourage people to change location as required
- If church reaches capacity with this arrangement, then we apologise profusely, hand them an outline of the service and ask for forbearance while we try to find the best way forward
- An additional weekly 8am service to be offered from 15th August

I hope this sounds like a reasonable way forward, and I look forward to seeing you either on Sunday or when you feel comfortable returning.

Every blessing,

James