

Risk Assessment for the Resumption of Communal Worship

This risk assessment is based on guidance issued by the Church of England which can be found on the [Church of England Coronavirus](#) pages and reflects activities permitted from **Step 2 of the Government Roadmap, which starts on 12 April 2021.**

In creating this document, specific reference has been made to the Church of England document COVID-19 Advice on the Conduct of Public Worship v 3.1. This document should be read in conjunction with the latest version the relevant church's [Risk Assessment for Opening Church Buildings to the Public](#), copies which can be found on the Four Parishes website <https://www.fourparishes.org.uk/>. A separate Risk Assessment is required for services of Holy Communion and these are also available on the Four Parishes website.

Underlying Assumptions for this Risk Assessment

The transmission of COVID-19 is thought to occur mainly through respiratory droplets generated by coughing and sneezing, and through contact with contaminated surfaces. The amount of time that the virus can survive on a surface is variable, but 48 hours is commonly considered to be a maximum. The recommended mitigations for avoiding transmission are frequent hand washing, social distancing and wearing of face covering, removal/avoidance or cleaning of surfaces, and good ventilation.

Given the age profile of the congregation, there is a high probability that most or all will have had their first Covid-19 vaccination, and some will have had their second. This considerably reduces the risk to all, although the wearing of face coverings and social distancing are still required.

Key Points

Public worship in church is permitted provided that any person attending is alone or part of a group all from the same household or from two linked households and must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group.

A single small group of singers, socially distanced, may rehearse or perform as part of communal worship. Communal (i.e. congregational) singing is still not allowed.

Outdoor gatherings of more than 6 people are not permitted unless all involved are from the same household or 2 linked households.

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Church: | Date completed: | Date approved by PCC: |
| Amendments | | Date |

| What is the general risk? | What is the specific risk? | What are you already doing to control the risks? | What further action do you need to take to control the risks? (refer to C of E guidance where possible) | Who needs to ensure this action is carried out? | Done |
|--|--|--|--|---|------|
| Risk to keyholders when accessing the church building for the purposes of cleaning, maintenance or recording music or videos for services. | Contracting or spreading the virus by not social distancing or by touching contaminated surfaces | Ensure that any keyholder who needs to enter the church is willing to do so and can do so safely. | Remind all keyholders about importance of social distancing, hand sanitising, and wearing of face coverings. | Churchwardens | |
| Risk to members of the public entering the building for the purposes of private prayer . | Contracting or spreading the virus by not social distancing or by touching contaminated services | The Church will be closed for 48 hours between openings, or will be cleaned beforehand. | | Churchwardens | |
| | | Put up notices to remind visitors about important safe practices e.g. social distancing, hand sanitising, wearing of face coverings etc. | | Churchwardens | |
| | | Provide adequate hand sanitiser stations. | Hand sanitiser to be placed in porch and on table immediately inside door | Churchwardens | |
| | Risk of infected person not being identified for NHS Track and Trace. | Ensure you have an NHS Track and Trace QR code available, with an | QR Code is displayed on the church door. Visitor's Sign in | Churchwardens | |

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|---|--|--|---|---|------|
| | | alternative option for those who cannot use that system. | sheet available as an alternative. | | |
| Risk to members of the public entering the building for the purposes of attending communal worship . | Risk of Minister and Churchwardens not following the Church of England guidelines for conduct of services. | Guidelines are referenced or copied in this document | Minister and Churchwardens to confirm that they have read and will follow the guidance in this document. | Minister and Churchwardens | |
| | Risk of congregation being unprepared for what they need to do to ensure guidelines are followed. | Potential attendees to be reminded of guidelines by email beforehand | Delegated persons to greet congregation outside and inside church door and ensure social distancing | Minister and Churchwardens | |
| | Risk of too many people to enable social distancing. | Restrict numbers to maximum capacity of the Church, ensuring that household bubbles can be safely accommodated at 2m distance. | Seating plan devised to ensure 2m distancing within the capacity and layout of the Church. Direct people to their seats. Consider if a booking system is needed and arrange if necessary. Be prepared to turn people away if the capacity to allow for social distancing is reached. | Churchwardens | |
| | People crowd together at the entrance door. | Control entry at the church door to admit | Delegated persons to greet congregation outside and inside church door and | Churchwardens | |

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|---------------------------|--|---|--|---|------|
| | | congregation one social group at a time | ensure social distancing. Direct people to their seats on entry to the building to avoid congestion. | | |
| | People don't bring a mask. | Remind people that mask wearing is mandatory | Delegated persons to remind people about mask wearing and have spares to offer if necessary. | Churchwardens | |
| | Risk of virus circulating in the building. | Good ventilation | During service main door to be open, with bird prevention in place if relevant. | Minister | |
| | People crowd together at the door on exit. | Flow of people leaving the church to be controlled | At the end of the service, Minister to remind people to leave one 'bubble' at a time, keeping socially distanced even when outside, and following the 'rule of six'. | Minister | |
| | Risk of infection from touching infected objects | Single use printed sheets to be provided for each service. | Hymn books and bibles have been removed from the pews. | Minister | |
| | | Cash donations to be collected in a receptacle that is set in one place and handled by one individual | | Churchwardens | |

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|---------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|---|------|
| | | Church to be cleaned before and after the service if less than 48 hrs between service and opening the church for private prayer or a wedding, funeral or separate baptism. | | Churchwardens | |

Additional note

In order to meet government requirements for 'Test and Trace', a list of all attendees at the service needs to be made with contact details, and an indication of any household groups. This list should be kept for 21 days and then destroyed. Alternatively, ensure people have scanned the NHS 'Test and Trace' QR code.