

## **Risk Assessment for Public Worship**

**Date of Risk Assessment:** 13/12/21 (Version 9)

**Review Date:** When guidance changes

### **Scope of Risk Assessment**

This risk assessment is for all Church services.

Government guidance and Church of England guidance updated between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021, has been taken into account when preparing this risk assessment.

<b>Aspect of Control</b>	<b>Controls in place or no longer required</b>
Managing numbers of worshippers	The legal limits on the numbers of people allowed to meet indoors and outdoors have been removed, including all capacity limits in churches.
	There are no longer restrictions on group sizes for attending communal worship.
	There are no longer limits on the number of people who can attend weddings, funerals and baptisms.
	In line with these legal changes there will be no limits on numbers attending services at St Anne's.
Social Distancing	All social distancing requirements have been removed.
	In line with these changes there will be no restrictions on where people sit in church or how they move around church. However everyone is asked to be mindful of others who may still feel uncomfortable about this change.
Access/egress at the Church	One-way systems will no longer be in place, other than for the purposes of facilitating the administration of worship. E.g. during communion.
	Sidesmen and wardens will direct any arrangements necessary during services.
Record of attendance	It is no longer legally required to ask people to register for NHS Test and Trace. Therefore the booking system for services has ended.
	It is not a requirement, nor is it appropriate, to ask people if they have been vaccinated prior to or at the time of them attending a service.
	A COVID pass is not required for any service in church.
Hygiene	Hand sanitiser will remain available at both the entry and exit points to the church
	The toilets in the church hall will once again be available and worshippers are informed of this
	A lidded bin with foot pedal will remain available for use in church and will always be lined with a plastic liner

Aspect of Control	Controls in place or no longer required
Face Coverings	<p>The requirement to wear a face covering is once again a legal requirement in places of worship, other than when singing (see below).</p> <p>There are self-declared exceptions to wearing a face covering. You don't need to prove you're exempt from wearing a face covering. There are cards and badges to help show others why you aren't wearing a mask.</p>
Church cleaning and ventilation	<p>Weekly thorough cleaning of the church is arranged by a professional cleaning company, each cleaning session lasting 3.5 hours</p> <p>All touch points will be the focus of the cleaning regime</p> <p>Where there are multiple services on one day, then services, door handles and other touch points will be wiped with sanitising wipes between the services. If the use of the church is infrequent, with more than 72 hours elapsing between use, then this additional cleaning is not required</p> <p>All soft furnishings, kneelers, banners etc. and all other loose materials have been removed from church for the time being to assist with the cleaning processes</p> <p>When ever possible, weather permitting, doors will be opened to allow good ventilation and air flow through the church.</p>
Nature of Worship	<p>All services will continue in accordance with the usual timetable which is published on the Church website and in the Church magazine.</p> <p>Simple notices will given at the start of each service reminding worshippers of any particular arrangements that are relevant.</p> <p>Singing by the congregation is permitted.</p> <p>Normal arrangements for lighting of candles and the collection will resume.</p> <p>The choir and clergy and the crucifer will process, while maintaining distance where possible</p>
Singing as part of Worship	<p>There are no restrictions on numbers singing in the choir and these arrangements will be agreed between the choirmaster and members of the choir.</p> <p>Singing by the congregation is permitted.</p> <p>In line with government guidance worshippers can remove their face covering when it is reasonably necessary for them to sing, for example, if they are singing as part of a choir, or during a service.</p>
Self-isolation and Coronavirus Symptoms	<p>As would be expected anyone who is self-isolating should not attend church for any reason, until their period of self-isolation has ended.</p> <p>There are a number of different reasons why self-isolation may be required (relating to symptoms, test results and travel) and it is the responsibility of individuals to check these requirements and abide by them.</p> <p>Remember self-isolation requirements may extend to others in the household, so please check.</p>

Aspect of Control	Controls in place or no longer required
Extremely Clinical Vulnerable	Shielding for this group has ended. It is their personal decision if they wish to attend church.
	Others in the congregation are asked to be mindful of others who are feeling uncertain.
	Worshippers in this group who want to discuss concerns about their attendance at church should contact the clergy.
Role of Wardens and sidesmen	Normal roles and duties have been resumed.
	When there are multiple services on the same day wardens may ask some of the sidesmen to assist to wipe down surfaces between services, if they feel comfortable to do so. Disposable gloves and wipes are provided.
Holy Communion	Worshippers can make a personal choice about if or how they wish to receive Communion. Worshippers are reminded that they can make their full communion in one kind (bread only) should that be their preference.
The Peace	The giving/receiving of the peace will remain, as it always has been, a verbal exchange.
Receiving Holy Communion	Both bread and wine will be distributed while worshippers stand or kneel at the altar step.
	Those wishing to receive only bread may do so. Clergy will try to be mindful of this and not offer the chalice in these cases.
	The chalice will be shared in the usual way, for those wishing also to take the wine.
	Intinction should not be practised by individual communicants (dipping bread into chalice).