

## Coronavirus Update Summary for the Watershed Benefice 17<sup>th</sup> May (Step 3)

*I will fully update the risk assessments as soon as I can, but please note the following in the meantime:*

In all circumstances, it is still imperative that people are (unless exempted) masked, socially distanced, sanitised and (ideally but not mandatory) either signed in on paper or with the QR code for NHS test and trace. We also need to make sure our buildings are as well ventilated as possible during worship/events/meetingd

### Worship:

We are now allowed to attend public worship indoors as part of a group of 6, but shouldn't mingle outside that. Outdoors, people can attend in groups of up to 30.

There is still no news on when we can sing together indoors. We are permitted to sing outdoors.

A 2m distance should be maintained

Please note that any worship that takes place away from church premises/grounds is subject to the guidance for people meeting in public places, not the guidance for churches.

*These requirements also apply to occasional offices, with the following additions:*

**Baptisms:** Baptisms can now go ahead with the same restrictions on numbers as for our public worship (ie constrained by social distancing in our buildings, not by government limits) if they are part of public worship. If it is a private baptism, there is a 30 person limit. Please continue to follow our risk assessments re. candles, oil, water, numbers around the font etc.

**Weddings/Blessings:** The capacity restriction is 30 people, plus those working (although these should be kept to a minimum) Please continue to follow our risk assessments re. rings, signing, masks for bride and groom etc

**Funerals:** Funerals are no longer constrained to 30 people, instead the same restrictions on numbers as for public worship apply (ie constrained by social distancing in our buildings, not by government limits). Please note that there is a 30 person limit for the burial of ashes. I'm trying to get clarity re memorial services.

### Other things

**Open Churches:** There is no public health need for an open church to be manned. Given that the risk is now more from aerosol than surfaces, we could safely leave the doors to St Andrew's open again, with appropriate signage. Heritage visiting can now resume.

**Support groups/parent and toddlers:** Can go ahead up to 30 people.

**Ministering to the sick and dying:** This is permitted, but the rule of 6 applies

**Home groups and meetings in private homes/vicarages:** The rule of 6 applies

**ACPMs, PCCs etc** Can be held in person, with the same capacities as for worship. They should be kept short.

### Hospitality

**Refreshments:** can be offered, but are subject to the detailed guidance for restaurants and cafes. It is really important that those who volunteer are aware of the risk assessments, do not volunteer if unwell, and – above all – are comfortable that they can safely serve in this way.

- The rule of 6 applies (indoors, or 30 outdoors). We would need to find ways of limiting the numbers attending.

- Where a premises doesn't have an alcohol licence, food and drink can now be collected from a counter. (maintaining a 2m queuing system) but must be consumed at a table. Where there is an alcohol licence (even if no alcohol is consumed), it's table service only.
- Workers should maintain a 2m (or 1m+ mitigation) where possible. This, in reality, makes it impossible to have more than one person in any of our kitchens at any one time, and this must inform our decision to open!!
- Where counter service is offered, servers should place orders on a collection point then invite people to collect them rather than handing items over directly. This also assists with safe queuing.
- Tables must be socially distanced from one another and within our safe capacities.
- There should be no mingling between groups of 6.
- Individual portions (sugar, biscuits etc) should be used where possible to prevent cross contamination.
- Those who are clearing/washing up should have adequate PPE. Where possible, use environmentally friendly disposables to reduce the need for washing up.
- Contact between customers and servers should be minimised (ie by screening collection points)
- Servers need to be masked
- Customer can be unmasked while consuming, but must mask to approach the counter, use the loo, or moving in and out of the building.
- Servers should collect empties to reduce the movement of others.
- Ventilation!!
- NHS Test and Trace information must be provided for everyone over 16.
- It would be useful for servers to self-administer a lateral flow test prior to their 'shift'. These are available for free at the moment.
- People can bring their own food and drink, but should ensure actions are taken to reduce risk of transmission (so no sharing just yet but we could picnic together!)

**Toilets:** should be kept open, but with clear usage and cleaning guidance

**Concerts etc:** The rule of 6 applies.

**Lifts:** You can give someone a lift to worship. If you are to do so, travel side by side (rather than facing one another), open the windows and stay masked throughout your journey. Clean surface between journeys and sanitise your hands too.