**Covid-19 precautions for Sunday worship,**

**from 4th April 2021 (Easter Sunday)**

**Services**

* 8.30am BCP Communion on 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays, not live-streamed (commencing Sunday 18th April 2021).
* 10am Service of the Word (with Communion on 2nd Sunday), live-streamed, containing an all-age talk and SONlight (commencing with an all-age Communion on Sunday 4th April 2021 – Easter Sunday (i.e., no SONlight)).

**Attendance**

* A maximum of 30 people is allowed into the building, plus the team needed to run the service.
* The 10am service is ticket-only, and tickets can be booked via Eventbrite.
* If anyone has Covid-19 symptoms, or is self-isolating because someone from their household/bubble has symptoms, they should not be allowed into the building.
* Anyone who is a vulnerable group should make their own decision about whether or not to attend the service.
* Everyone needs to “check in”, by either scanning the QR code on the NHS poster using the NHS Covid-19 app, or leaving their name and phone number. (The paper record of those attending will be kept for 21 days and then destroyed.) This is to be administered by the Welcome Team outside the building as much as possible, in order to avoid people congregating inside the door.

**Coming in and going out**

* The Welcome Team will gently encourage people to take a seat when they arrive, rather than mingling with other households/bubbles.
* Only people who have booked a seat will be allowed in (there will be a list of those who have booked which the Welcome Team can check).
* Hand gels are to be used on the way in and the way out.
* We will observe the 2-metre distancing rule as far as possible, and avoid physical contact and touching things unnecessarily.
* The chairs have been arranged to allow for the 2-metre rule. These can be moved so that everyone from a larger household/bubble can sit together.
* There will be no children’s toys (the play room will not be in use), and any children present must stay with their parent/carer. (SONlight will have its own risk assessment.)
* There will be no refreshments offered.
* The service leader will remind the congregation that we are not allowed to mingle after the service finishes.
* When the service finishes, people will be asked to stay in their seats by the service leader, and will be told by the Welcome Team when they are allowed to leave their seats and leave the building. This is to avoid people congregating by the door.
* When outside, mingling will be discouraged, even though the “rule of 6” applies.

**Face masks**

* Face masks (i.e., not shields) must be worn, which safely cover the nose and mouth and fit securely around the side of the face. Exceptions to this include:
	+ Young children under the age of 11.
	+ Those who are unable to wear a face covering due to physical or mental impairment.
	+ Those who give assistance to someone who relies on lip-reading.
* Everyone taking part in the service (leader, preacher, reader, intercessor, the person who gives the mission update, and the person giving the all-age talk) will remove their face mask to speak, and then put it back on again afterwards.

**The service**

* Only the service leader, preacher, president and musician shall sit on the stage, and they will be sitting apart. All others taking part in the service (reader, intercessor, the person giving mission update, and sometimes the person giving the all-age talk) will sit with the congregation and come up for their part.
* The vestry prayer for service leader, preacher, president and person giving the all-age talk will take place in the chancel.
* For the 8.30am service, everyone will be issued with a Prayer Book. They will bring this to every 8.30am service, and take it home again afterwards. It will remain at their home for the foreseeable future, and will not be touched by anyone else.
* At the 10am service, there will be no books, sheets or Bibles available – all words will be on the screen.
* For those who struggle to see the screen, the service leader will send out a service sheet on e-mail in the previous week, which members of the congregation are welcome to print off at home and bring with them. (This service sheet will also be used by those who would like to watch the live-stream from home rather than come into the Church building.)
* There will be no congregational singing.
* The reader, intercessor, and the person giving the mission update will bring their own Bible or notes.

**Microphones, lecterns and sound desk**

* The service leader, preacher, president and the person giving the all-age talk will use radio microphones, and each person will be the only person to touch their microphone.
* One stand-alone microphone will be used for all others who will speak (reader, intercessor, the person giving mission update). No-one will touch this stand-alone microphone except the person who sets it up (usually the sound technician).
* We won’t use a lectern (to avoid multiple people touching it).
* We will use separate music stands for each service leader, preacher and the person giving the all-age talk to put their notes on, if they would like that.
* Only the sound engineer will touch the sound desk.
* Only the service leader/president or the technician on duty will touch the equipment for live-streaming, and projection onto the screen. If more than one person needs to touch the equipment, hand gel should be used.

**Holy Communion**

* Only the president will touch the Lord’s table, patten, chalice, jugs, purificators, and the Communion elements.
* The priest will use hand gel before handling the elements, and will not speak over the elements.
* Wafer bread will be used.
* Everyone who would like to receive Communion or a blessing will be invited to stand in front of their chair, and the president will take bread and wine to those who are standing.
* The priest shall wear a face mask while administering Communion, and will not speak.
* The congregation can receive both bread and wine, because the priest will dip a wafer into the wine before giving it to the congregation member.
* People will hold out their hands to receive the bread with wine on it. The priest will drop the bread into the person’s hand, without saying anything. Face masks can be removed to consume the bread. (There is no need to use hand gel at this point unless there is physical contact between the president and the congregation member.)
* The priest will receive last, and consume the remaining elements.
* For anyone who would like a blessing, the president will say a socially-distanced prayer.

**Cleaning after the service**

* We only need to clean if the building is to be used again within 72 hours.
* If cleaning is needed, all hard surfaces that are likely to have been touched will be cleaned with anti-bacterial/viral spray.