

COVID Restrictions from 19th July 2021

WORSHIP:

The guidelines on COVID-19 restrictions from both the government and the Church of England have changed. Decisions regarding practices in local churches is now the legal responsibility of the incumbent and CWs of each parish.

Decisions regarding local Covid-19 precautions will be based upon:

- local incidence of COVID-19 data
- layout of the church
- ventilation
- the needs of the most vulnerable
- the safety and well being of those involved in leading worship (eg. clergy/servers/choir/welcomers)

Local restrictions will be reviewed at the beginning of each calendar month by the Standing Committee, or sooner if the government or Church of England change the Coronavirus guidance, or a local outbreak so requires.

As of **Sunday 1st August the following provisions will apply at St Peter's Church, Filton** for Worship;

- Masks to be worn inside the church at all times (notwithstanding medical exemptions)
- Social distancing to be maintained
- Booking in for Sunday services still strongly encouraged, though not essential
- Continue to use hand sanitiser and practise good COVID-19 hygiene (hands, face, space)
- The peace will be shared in word only, with no physical contact
- Those involved in leading worship will continue with current distancing/COVID-19 precautions

The choir will continue to sing and lead worship as they have been doing. In addition to this:

- Congregation members can now hum along with the music quietly, **as long as** they are wearing masks.
- **The choir** will begin singing the Gloria, the Gospel acclamation, the Sanctus, and the Agnus Dei, in addition to the introit, communion hymn and recessional.

It is hoped that in September, the congregation will be able to sing along with the hymns and liturgy, **whilst wearing masks**.

We are a Christian Community and so share in the belief that we are loved individually by God, and as many members of the one body we are called to be responsible for one another, respecting the more vulnerable whose suffering is our suffering (1Cor12:12-27).

We ask you to adhere to the above restrictions as a way of practicing the following:

Humility: Wearing our masks protects others, rather than ourselves.

Kindness: The person you are sitting next to or walk past in church may be caring for an elderly relative, or a seriously ill child. We never know someone else's circumstances.

Love for Community: We want our community to thrive, charities and businesses to stay open, employees and family to stay healthy. Doing what we can to prevent the spread of COVID-19 helps us all.

Jesus said 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself' Mark 12.31

CHURCH HALL:

If you are a **church group** meeting either in church, in the church hall or at another location, we ask that you act in line with this guidance, and be led by the most vulnerable in your groups, erring on the side of caution.

With regards to all **Church Hall users** we ask that you continue to follow requirements regarding wiping services used and touched when using the facilities, providing alcohol gel for your group, and consider what social distancing measures need to be kept in place to keep those attending your groups feeling safe.

Thank you for your understanding throughout this difficult time.