

Changes to Covid precautions at St Peter's church

Proposals following review of church anti-Covid measures by PCC- August 2021

The PCC of St Peter's has reviewed the anti-Covid measures taken in our church, following the easing of government restrictions on July 19th 2021. The review took account of the Church of England document [COVID 19 Guidance from the 19th July 2021 v1.0.pdf](#), and of measures agreed by the PCC of St Andrew's, Cheddar. The principle behind our policy is to free us to do the things most important to us as churchgoers, whilst keeping us all as safe as possible in a potentially dangerous and changing situation. We propose making changes gradually, and reviewing them frequently.

The following changes were proposed:

1. Face mask wearing and singing at church services.

During services, the nave of the church will be divided into a 'mask optional' zone (the front of the church, nearer the altar), and a 'mask mandatory' zone (the back of the church, nearer the entrance). Those wishing to remove their masks during the service (such as for singing) will be asked to sit at the front, and those wishing to keep masks on throughout will be asked to sit at the back. Zones will be clearly marked by signage.

Whilst moving around in the church we are all encouraged to wear face masks.

2. Seating.

We will continue to use the black plastic chairs as at present, but these will all be turned to face the front. Seats will be placed at a 2m distance from each other where possible (those from the same household are still free to rearrange them to sit closer to each other).

3. Communion.

For the moment, communion will continue to be in one kind only (i.e. bread), and the congregation will be communicated where they sit. The celebrant will first communicate the choir and organist, then come into the nave as at present, and communicate those at the back of the church first, working towards the front. The celebrant will take the same precautions as at present (i.e. mask wearing, hand gelling, covering the elements during consecration).

4. Passing of the peace.

The congregation will be asked to remain in their places during the passing of the peace, and be sensitive to the wishes of those around them.

5. Socialising after the service.

For the moment, we will not serve refreshments after the service. The congregation will be encouraged to socialise outside where the weather permits, and at all times to be sensitive to the wishes of those around them (such as the preserving of social distancing).

6. Church opening.

We hope to increase the days we open the church during the week, perhaps to 6 days a week.

All other measures will remain the same as at present. We request all those with possible Covid symptoms to stay away and not to attend church again until testing negative for Covid. We will continue to display the QR code, and take a register of those attending, for contact tracing purposes. Doors will continue to be propped open during services for ventilation. Cleaning will continue as at present.

These measures will all be reviewed regularly by the PCC and may be changed at short notice. Every effort will be made to communicate any changes to those who might be affected.

Draycott PCC, 04/08/2021