

Benefice of Sarratt and Chipperfield

St Paul's Chipperfield

Advice for Worshippers during the Covid-19 Coronavirus Pandemic

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Welcome

Dear Friends,



The closing of the doors to our church buildings in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic was a disturbing and distressing experience for all of us. Now that Lockdown has eased, we look forward to returning to church and once more being able to meet in person to worship together. It is something we have all been waiting for with great anticipation and I look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks. Covid-19 continues to have an impact on how life is navigated, so it may not be possible for all of us to be together again: some of you may need/want to remain shielding and some of you may not be able to physically come to church. Whatever the circumstance I hope that you will continue to experience being part of the community of St Paul's and Holy Cross through the on-line services and material made available through our website. The on-line services will be different as we move back into our buildings, but we will keep you informed of developments as things progress.

The future pattern of worship and how we access services is also being informed by the Covid-19 safety regulations in place.

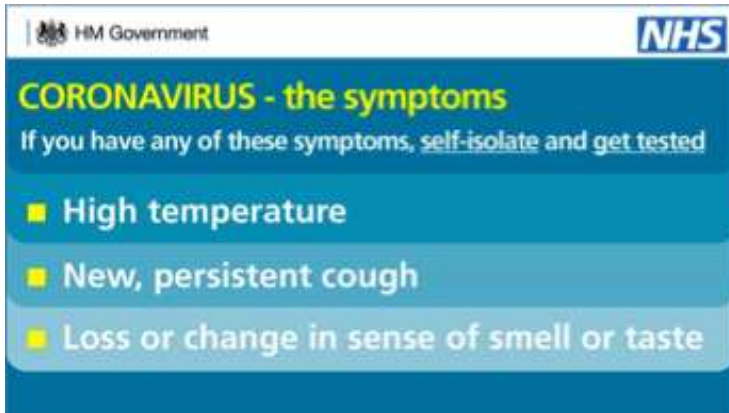
This Advice Booklet has been prepared to help us keep each other safe as we return to our buildings. Please read it carefully and observe the guidance given. If you have any questions, please contact The Churchwardens or our Benefice Administrator, Sonya Tolmie. (See Section 15 - Contact Numbers)

I am very much looking forward to being with you all.

Reverend Canon Michele du Saire
Rector to the Benefice of Sarratt and Chipperfield

1. If you have symptoms

For the well-being of others, **please do not attend public worship if you have any symptoms listed below** which suggest that you might have Covid-19.



If you develop these symptoms, however mild, or you have received a positive coronavirus (Covid-19) test result, then you should immediately self-isolate: stay at home for at least 7 days from when your symptoms started. If you live with others, all other household members who remain well must not leave the house for 14 days.

The Governments [stay at home guidance](#) give further information.

2. Hygiene: Face coverings, hand sanitising

The use of face coverings is compulsory in the church building unless you are exempt under [UK Government Guidelines](#)

Please sanitise your hands at the following times:

- On the way in to church
- On the way out of church

Once you are in the church building, please avoid, as far as possible, contact with any touch points: door handles, light switches, pew ends. The church will be cleaned on Wednesday and remain closed to all access until Sunday.

3. Toilets

For the duration of the Covid-19 restrictions, when the church is open for Services, only the Access (disabled)/Baby changing Toilet will be available for **emergency** use. There will be no access to the Parish Room except for emergency use of the disabled toilet.

In order to decrease the risk of cross-contamination:

- a) When you've finished using the toilet and flushed it, please use one of the alcohol wipes from the pack on the cistern to wipe down:
 - Door lock mechanism on the inside
 - Toilet flush handle
 - Body of the cistern
 - Toilet seat
 - Afterwards, place the wipe in the bin adjacent to the toilet.
- b) Wash your hands with warm water and soap for 20 seconds before touching the door handle. We have a hot air dryer in the disabled toilet.
- c) Please sanitise your hands before you re-enter the church

4. Booking a seat

The Covid-19 restrictions make it necessary to restrict the number of people attending Services. If you would like to attend one of our Sunday Services (9am and 10.30am) please book to attend by:

- a) Telephoning the Benefice Office on 01923 264377 by Thursday at 2.00pm before a particular Sunday. You will need to book each week.

- b) Leaving a message if your call is not answered, stating your name/contact number and number of seats required for your household.

OR

- c) Emailing the information to holycrossstpauls@btconnect.com

If you have already let Sonya know your September attendance you do not need to make contact again. As attendance figures start to increase we will keep you updated with any changes to our booking system.

All seating has been marked off to maintain recommended distancing of 2 metres throughout. Your seat/s will be allocated according to the number of people in your group.

With the restricted number of seats available, for the present time you are asked to book to attend only one of the two Services in the Benefice each week.

5. Queuing, Entering and Leaving Church

Queuing - When you arrive at church, please remain in your household 'bubble' to form a queue as directed. You will be asked to queue along the path from the carpark gate to the main entrance of the church. Access is only via the main church door. A sidesperson will check your name on the booking list and will usher you into the church once the narthex is clear.

Entering - Sidespersons will be on hand to welcome you, invite you to sanitise your hands and direct you to your seat. A one-way system for entering and leaving the building has been put in place so please take your cue from the sidesperson and follow their lead. Please remain in your bubbles at all times, and respect other's need to social distance. You will have been allocated a seat and all seats will be filled in from front to rear. Please arrive in good time.

Leaving - A sidesperson will be on hand to guide you towards the exits. Please leave the building as directed and do not gather near exits after the service. See also *Section 10 - At the end of the service*

Don't forget to bring an umbrella if rain is forecast.

6. Following the Order of Service

A printed booklet has been prepared for the service and this will be on your allotted pew. Please leave it there at the end of the service.

7. Music, Singing and the Peace

Music - There will be music at the 10.30am Services and at the 9.00am Services in St Paul's.

Singing - Singing and raising one's voice to project both create an aerosol which travels a significant distance. It follows that we are not allowed to sing in church and are also asked to keep noise levels low, so that no one has to raise their voice. Hymns will be played during the service and you are invited to quietly hum along or say the words quietly to yourself. The congregation will be reminded to keep silence ahead of worship beginning. In addition, as you make your way into church and to your seat, please refrain from stopping for conversation along the way. We look forward to the introduction of a small choir in due course.

Peace - Where the Sharing of the Peace forms part of the usual Service, congregants are asked to gesture kindly to those around them from their place. Please do not move around the church.

8. Donations

If you wish to make a donation you will be invited to do this in the narthex, before the service begins.

Contactless - A touchless card reader will be available in the narthex of the church for donations.

Cash - Gift aid envelopes will also be available, should you wish to donate in this way, but please bring your own pen. A collection plate will be available for your donation. If you donate by cash please sanitise your hands before taking your seat.

9. Receiving Communion

In keeping with the advice from the Church of England, Communion will be distributed in one kind (as the host - or bread) for the moment. Communion will be brought to you by the priest.

Priests leading the Service will keep the host - the bread - of Communion covered throughout the Service until the distribution of Communion. They will sanitise their hands before distributing Communion - also wearing a facemask to minimise risk of virus spread at close proximity.

To receive Holy Communion (which will be bread only) please:

- Remove your face covering **by the ear loop/s** and pop it over your wrist
- Receive Communion. Neither you nor the Priest/Administrant will say anything as the responses will already have been spoken.
- Replace your face covering.
- Please do not touch the front of your face covering at any point
- Please hold your hands well ahead in front of you to receive.

10. At the end of the Service

Please remain seated at the end of the Service until a sidesperson directs you as to when it is time for you to leave.

The church will be emptied from the front to the back in order to reduce the number of people who walk past each other. Please leave the church directly and do not stop just outside to chat - in order to avoid bunching at the doors.

11. In an emergency

Emergency exits will be open throughout Service to help ventilation of the church space. In the event of an emergency that requires the Service to be discontinued (this may include someone becoming unwell) please follow the directions you will be given by a sidespersons to the nearest exit.

12. Live-streaming

Please note that we are expecting our Services to be recorded and/or live-streamed. The position of cameras used for recording is to be finalised: we will keep you informed of progress.

13. Children

The family of the church is incomplete without children present.

We hope that even with the changes to our worship at this time, parents and carers will feel able to bring children to worship with them.

Please bring items from home that your children will enjoy, should they get distracted during the worship. At this time, we ask that parents and carers keep their children within the 'bubble' of their seat spaces. Should children

need a break from the Service at any point, please let one of the sidespersons know.

14. After the Service: track and trace

Government and Church of England advice is that we should keep a record of who has attended a Service for 21 days afterwards. This will allow us to contact members of a congregation should someone develop symptoms of COVID-19 within 48 hours of attending a Service and then test positive for the virus.

Anyone who develops symptoms of COVID-19 should:

isolate - As soon as you experience coronavirus symptoms, medical advice is clear: you must self-isolate for at least 7 days. Anyone else in your household must self-isolate for 14 days from when you started having symptoms.

test - Order a test immediately at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119 if you have no internet access.

share contacts - If you test positive for coronavirus, the NHS test and trace Service will send you a text or email alert or call you with instructions of how to share details of people with whom you have had close, recent contact and places you have visited. It is important that you respond as soon as possible so that NHS track and trace can give appropriate advice to those who need it. Please let us know if you test positive so that we can advise members of the congregation (without revealing your identity, of course) as well as lock the church for 72 hours if necessary.

Results - If your test is positive, you must complete the remainder of your 7-day self-isolation. Anyone in your household must also complete self-isolation for 14 days from when you started having symptoms. If your test is negative, you and other household members no longer need to self-isolate.

15. Contact Numbers

- Ann Waine (Churchwarden St Paul's) - 01923 269985
- Linda Clough (Churchwarden Holy Cross) - 01923 264884
- Sonya Tolmie (Benefice Administrator) - 01923 264377

