

# Parish of St. John the Divine - Rastrick

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Dear Friends

You will be aware that lockdown restrictions changed again from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July. Having now received guidance from the Church of England and the Diocese, and discussed this with members of the Standing Committee, here are details of what this will mean for worship at St John's.

I am aware that some of you may feel this is too restrictive, and for others that it is not restrictive enough. However, it has been produced with the following principles in mind, provided by the Diocese –

- Can does not mean must
- Love our neighbour
- It is not a race, there is no competition – go slowly and cautiously

Over the following weeks some changes will gradually be introduced.

Although wearing a face covering is no longer compulsory you are strongly encouraged to do so while entering and leaving the building and moving around inside eg. to receive communion. Continuing to wear a mask while seated and during singing will be a matter of personal choice.

Whoever is leading the service will continue to wear a mask before and after the service and while distributing communion.

Chairs will continue to be spaced out within the building to help with distancing.

Hand sanitiser will continue to be provided on entry and exit to the building, and before receiving communion.

The current one way in and out system will remain for now, and weather permitting, the doors will be left open to aid ventilation.

Singing will be gradually reintroduced over the coming weeks. Firstly hymns, followed by sung communion settings with congregational responses. Wherever possible hymn words will be on screen to avoid using hymn books and other printed materials. Service booklets will continue to be placed on seats in advance of services.

It is advised that for now movement and contact during services is minimised. Therefore, sharing the peace will remain as it is now, although shaking hands with those either side of you is acceptable. Likewise, there will continue to be no offertory procession.

Following the latest Diocesan advice, communion will continue to be distributed in one kind only, with the priest alone receiving the wine. There will be no change to how this is administered.

The newsletter will continue to be published electronically.

Although serving refreshments before or after a service is now permitted, the rules surrounding this remain strict, and so the decision has been made to delay this until September.

Although no longer compulsory, we will continue to gather data for track and trace purposes, and continue to display the QR code for the app.

There may be additional and specific rules for particular services where a larger congregation are expected to attend.

Rev'd Michelle Petch, Vicar

Wednesday 21.07.21