

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

The PCC of St Mary's takes the safety of its congregation very seriously and has put in measures to protect its members by following government regulations and advice from the Diocese and the Church of England.

Since lockdown, we have been meeting as a church congregation each Sunday via Zoom, the online platform that enables people to either use their computers to join the congregation and see one another, or to 'phone in and listen to the service. This has been a great opportunity to hear how we are all doing and to worship together but we are aware that for some people it has been too strange for them to have this type of church service.

Following a risk assessment undertaken by the PCC, St Mary's re-opened for corporate worship on Sunday 6th September at the later time of 11am. As the numbers of people attending are restricted to 43, we have decided to continue with Zoom services at 9.30am each Sunday. We are asking, if possible, that if you would like to attend the service at St Mary's at 11am that you email the office at northmymmschurch@btinternet.com or phone 01727 825578 so that we can be fair to all those who would like to come and feel it is safe to do so. Please use the same contact details if you would like to attend our Zoom service instead, so that you can be sent the link.

When you do come to church, things are a little different from normal. While this is not ideal, it is in order to keep you safe.

- When you arrive, please wear a face mask.
- You will be greeted outside by stewards and asked for Track & Trace details. If you are already on the electoral roll please indicate this.
- Please wait patiently outside until you are allowed in the porch.
- Please sanitise your hands as you enter.
- If you would like to make your offering, contactless card readers are situated on the left and there is also a plate. If you would be able to join our standing order for giving that would be very helpful.
- Once you enter the building, stewards will indicate where you may sit, and all places must be kept intact as they have been measured to be 2m in all directions from others.
- The Order of Service is on your seat which we ask that you take away with you. The refurbished Bevington organ will be playing during the service but at this time, no singing is allowed.
- When it is time for Communion, stewards will indicate when you are able to go to the front. Please sanitise your hands as you approach the altar. There are no rails. The priest will give you your bread and please keep it until you return to your seat.
- We will all remove our masks at the same time and consume the bread before redonning our masks.
- Use of the toilets is allowed but again you will need to sanitise your hands before you enter, then wash your hands as you leave.
- There will not be refreshments after the service.

- At the end of the service, stewards will indicate when it is your turn to exit using the West Doors.
- Please keep your masks on as you chat with your friends once you are well away from the church building and keep the safe distance from one another.

We hope that all we are trying to do will enable us to worship together safely but understand that it is difficult for us all not to be allowed to give one another a hug.

Please note that the timings of services may be subject to change and that, if government guidance changes, the way we worship may also have to adapt.