



Dear Friends

After many weeks, we are looking forward to opening the church for public worship once again on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> July. We are working hard to make sure that our gathering together is as safe as we can make it, in these continuing days of pandemic. We would like to welcome as many of you as we can, but you should not attend if you are self-isolating or have symptoms of Covid-19 infection. We are also asked to remind you of the general advice that “individuals who are over 70 years or clinically vulnerable should still stay at home as much as possible and take particular care to minimise contact with others outside their household”. We will continue to provide worship online for those of you unable to join us, which can be found on our website <https://stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk/sunday-worship/>

I suppose the mantra is: we'd love to see you but don't feel you have to come: stay safe and keep others safe.

When we return, things will be different – both in terms of how the building looks and what worship will look like. On Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> we will offer one act of worship at 9.30am – this will be a Service of the Word, not hugely dissimilar to what has been offered online in recent weeks. There will be no singing and, for the time being, no music. If all goes smoothly I hope that the following week we will be able to offer Holy Communion at 8.00am and a similar Service of the Word at 9.30am.

As you come into church, as you go out and while you are in church please respect a social distance of 2 metres. You will need to sanitise your hands on the way in and on the way out.

We have had to close pews to maintain safe social distancing; we will direct you to where you are able to sit. Only those who are reading and leading the prayers of intercession will come forward to the front of church. You will be asked to leave the church in order from the back pew to the front – maintaining social distance.

If you wish to you are welcome to wear a mask or face covering.

In line with Government advice, to help with the track and trace system, we will try to keep a record of who has attended church and visitors, new comers will be invited to share their details with us.

There will be no Sunday School, separate children's activities or children's corner; children are very welcome but they will need to sit with their parents/carers. Children's activities will continue to be posted online and, if these are suitable, you are asked to print these and bring them for your children to do – along with any pens, pencils etc. needed.

The Church Hall will not be open and therefore access to the toilets will not be available.

I know all this sounds horribly restrictive but we are following Government and Church of England advice – which can be found here

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july>

- and our main priority is to ensure the safety of us all whilst allowing some return to corporate worship.

With good wishes, Brian