

The Parish Church of St George, Jesmond

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A worshipping community: inclusive, nurturing, engaged

Vicar: The Reverend Canon Brian Hurst

24 February 2022

Dear Friends,

With the legal restrictions for Coronavirus being lifted, I feel this is a good time to be in touch with you to share about how we might continue to gather safely in worship.

But first, I want to say thank you to you all for bearing with us over the past two years, which I know we have all found extremely wearing and unsettling.

A particular thanks goes, once again, to the churchwardens who have worked so hard in ensuring we have been able to worship together in safety and have been there to offer advice and insights to me.

As we know the pandemic is not yet over, and we are being urged to take personal responsibility in our continued exercise of caution. However, the time is coming for us to gradually lift some of the restrictions we have been experiencing in church.

We are no longer asking everyone to wear a face covering. If you wish to continue to do so, then please do and we will support you in that. We are also removing the ticks and crosses which have given direction on which pews to sit in and other signs and warning symbols will disappear.

However, we would encourage you all to be considerate of those who are most vulnerable or anxious regarding the lifting of restrictions – do not assume everyone is as confident as you might be!

As a courtesy to others, we would encourage you to sit apart from people with whom you did not arrive.

We ask you to continue to use the hand sanitiser coming in and out of church.

For the time being, at the 9.30 Parish Eucharist, we will continue to bring the Sacrament to you in the pew, at the 8.00 Eucharist we will encourage the congregation to come forward, if they are able, to receive. The Communion wafer will continue to be pre-intincted with a drop of wine so all can partake in both bread and wine.

In the coming weeks, it is my hope that other parts of our worship will return to something closer to normality... but we will remain vigilant of the virus and progress will depend on what is happening as we begin to approach Spring.

With my continued prayers and good wishes,

Brian