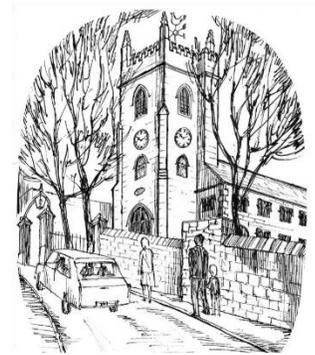


# St Nicholas with St John and St Michael

In order to comply with the government and diocesan regulations the following procedures will enable us to reopen and be COVID-SAFE.

We do however want to make the service the pleasant act of worship we are used to, together with any fellowship still possible within the constraints we have to work under.



## Face coverings

On Thursday 23 July 2020 the Church of England issued advice relating to face coverings, *“strongly advising that face coverings should be worn by all those attending a place of worship, including ministers, worshippers, staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors, where there may be other people present; remembering that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer, from coronavirus (COVID-19) and that they are not a replacement for social distancing and regular hand washing.”*

Government advice **does not** currently make the wearing of face coverings mandatory in places of worship.

## Video Recording

There have been requests that the service be recorded and broadcast through YouTube for the benefit of those who are unable to be present. It is unlikely anyone will be easily identifiable but please speak to one of the wardens if this could be a problem.

## Entry into church

Please use the sanitizers as you enter and leave the building.

Ideally, we would like to have a one-way system through church, entering by the main door into the narthex and exit through the door adjacent to the carpark. However, if you normally enter from the car park, please continue to do so to avoid having to use the path and risk slipping at the corner at the top. We do however ask that you use the aisle along the north wall leading to the font at the back of church and to maintain social distancing with anyone entering the church from the narthex into the main aisle.

Before leaving the narthex, please leave your name and contact number – only one per family group is needed. We are asked to collect this information to facilitate NHS Track and Trace, but we should point out that this is voluntary. The information will be destroyed after 21 days.

## Seating in church

Initially labels have been placed in the pews to identify seating (green ticks and red crosses). Pews with no green ticks should NOT be used to ensure that we are all two metres apart. **Only sit where there is a green tick**, obviously couples and family groups may sit together.

Please fill the pews on either side of the main aisle first, there are additional seats in the north and south aisles.

## Service sheets and Pew sheets

Service sheets will be on the pews together with a pew sheet with the day's readings. Please leave the service sheet on the pew. **Please take the pew sheet home with you or place it in the paper recycling bin as you leave the building.**

## The Service

We hope to follow the usual service as closely as possible, but there will have to be a few changes.

- Please remain seated throughout the service except when invited to communion.
- There will be no hymns or singing but we hope to intersperse the service with organ music.
- Please keep your responses as quiet as possible.
- There will only be one reading from the lectern, the eagle will not be used.

## The Eucharist

**Please wait until you are invited to leave your seats as this is the part of the service where we will have to take care to ensure social distancing, and the procedure will depend on the numbers in church. Having a 'one-way' system should reduce any long queues and 'keep everyone' moving.**

**Before receiving the host please use the hand sanitiser – the priest will 'drop' the host into your hand, but please avoid any contact.**

- The distribution of the host will be from the bottom of the chancel steps.
- Members of the congregation in the nave will be invited first to receive communion starting at the front as usual. After receiving communion please proceed to the left, passing the 'eagle' returning to your seats from the back of church.

- At the same time, anyone seated in the north aisle, (behind the eagle), will be invited to the rear of the church to follow down the main aisle.
- If you are seated in the south aisle please wait until invited to join any queue down the main aisle and return to your seats again passing the 'eagle'. Please do not return to your seats by passing the organist.

Please try and keep a safe distance throughout.

To avoid having to wear a mask, the priest will not speak whilst distributing the host.

## **After the service**

Obviously, you will wish to speak with people you may not have seen for a while, but **please** try and keep this to a minimum and **please** maintain your distance for the safety of everyone and especially those around you who may be in any of the vulnerable categories.

Please avoid standing in the aisles forcing people to 'squeeze' past.

There will be no tea or coffee.

If possible, please leave by the exit adjacent to the carpark, but if this would require you using the outside path, please use the main door but please again try to maintain social distancing.

## **Toilets**

Toilets are available but please, after washing your hands, also use the hand sanitiser.