

22 July 2021

Changes in Covid Restrictions, July 2021 onwards

Dear Friends,

At the recent meeting of the Congregational Committee, the implications of the lifting of all Covid related restrictions were discussed. The advice received from the Church of England's Covid Recovery Group and the Bishop of Ely's office is that, whilst we can now legally set aside many of the restrictions that have been in place for nearly eighteen months, we should be cautious, careful, and respectful of the views and fears of many, particularly those in vulnerable groups.

We trust that the main points outlined below will make sure that everyone feels safe and comfortable about coming to church and we hope that few will mind continuing with certain measures which have hitherto been compulsory so that everyone can feel welcome and valued.

Face-coverings and social distance

We strongly encourage you to continue to wear face-coverings, unless exempt, when entering and leaving the church. Face masks may be removed when seated in the pews. We will continue to use every other pew since this does not cause us any undue difficulty. Please try to maintain the social distance inside the church building. We will continue to keep the church well ventilated.

Track and Trace

It is recommended that a register of those attending is still kept so please continue to scan the QR code or give your name and contact phone number as you arrive. We recommend that you continue to use the hand sanitisers at the door and bring your own sanitiser if you wish to use this before communion.

Singing

Congregational singing is now permitted and we will reintroduce an introit, offertory and final hymn when I return from holiday. However, in common with other churches and the cathedral, we ask that masks are worn whilst singing. We will ask you to return any hymn and service books to a box provided for the purpose at the end of a service.

The Peace

Sharing the Peace with a handshake or other physical touch is now permitted. However, there will be some who will not wish to make physical contact. Please be aware of this and respect other people's preferences. I, personally, will not make physical contact with anyone at the Peace.

Offertory

The collection plate will remain at the back of the church throughout the service and will not be passed round or presented at the altar

At Communion

The chalice will not be shared at communion. I will continue to intinct the host with the wine before administering and wear a mask during the administration. Communion will once more be administered at the altar rail. You will be invited to come forward in groups of six and socially distance along the rail to receive. Please also continue to observe good distancing as you return to your pew especially when passing through the screen

Refreshments

We have decided to ask you if you are happy for refreshments to be provided in St Peter's House once more after the Sunday service and whether you would join in. Please let me, Janet or Susan have your views about this over the next few weeks.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Paul Andrews