



Newbury, St George & St John

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July 2nd 2020

Dear friends,

This is an important letter about coming back to Church on Sunday (5 July). It requires a response so please read it straight away.

It is great news that we can gather again on Sundays in church.

As you can imagine, however, there will be some differences from what we are used to. These changes are non-negotiable restrictions imposed by the Government to protect against the spread of Covid19.

If you are planning to attend this Sunday it is essential that you read carefully the 'What to expect' section below.

It is also very important to underline that anyone who does not feel ready to return to social gatherings must not feel under any pressure to rush back to church on Sunday. The Government's advice is that people over 70, and all with underlying health conditions, should be cautious about returning to gathered worship in church.

We will live-stream Sunday worship for those who would prefer to join in from home.

Because of the requirement for social distancing in the church we have to limit the numbers attending on Sunday to a maximum of 50 people at each service.

We are therefore offering two services this Sunday (the same Order of Service at both), one at 9am, and another at 11am which will also be live-streamed. Both services will be a said service of Holy Communion (bread only). See more details below.

Sunday Club will take place in the vicarage garden and Large Meeting Room during the 11am service. Parents have been contacted separately.

We very much hope that those who are at home will join at 11am for live worship. (What could possibly go wrong??!!) We are hoping to have Zoom Coffee and Chat at 12 noon.

Please could you let the Office know asap, ideally by email but a phone call is fine:

- a) If you plan to attend, which service you will come to, 9am or 11am
- OR b) Whether you are unable to come on Sundays for the time being

Please email or phone Alex in the office before lunchtime this Friday if at all possible. Contact details are above.

What to expect on Sunday?

- Ideally walk to church, but if driving please park in the hall car park and walk around to the south side entrance, where parking is limited to those with mobility issues.
- To arrive at the church no more than 20 minutes before the start of the service, and to be aware that once we reach maximum capacity, we will not be able to let anyone in.
- To enter the church on the tower side only. There will be no access through the door on the hall side.
- To be greeted by welcomers from St George's in face masks.
- To give your name and phone number (a requirement for 'Track and Trace').
- To gel your hands as you enter the church and again as you leave.
- To be directed to a pew where everyone (apart from couples/households) will be seated 2 metres apart.
- To enjoy a familiar service of Holy Communion but bread only, no hymn singing (but live organ music as we gather, depart and during the distribution of communion), no shaking hands in the peace etc, and overall a shorter service, though with all of the usual elements.
- To receive communion standing at the Chancel step from the presiding priest in a face mask and, if you are able-bodied, to return to your seat by exiting the church through the North Meeting Room and re-entering through the main door.
- To wear a jumper as all the doors will be left open!

Please be aware that the limits on numbers will be strictly adhered to. There is no requirement to wear a face mask but please feel free to do so if you prefer. And of course, DO NOT come to church if you are feeling ill or have any symptoms associated with Coronavirus such as a cough or raised temperature.

Should you wish to make a donation to St George's there will be a contactless payment device and collection plate for any offerings, but a collection will not be taken in the services.

If you have any queries or concerns speak to Alex in the Office (between 9.30 and 2pm) or contact me.

So, please come on Sunday if you can, but don't worry if you can't; we remain God's church whatever. As we journey on through this strange landscape, with all its sorrows and some surprising joys, we simply respond as best we can to each new twist and turn with graciousness and compassion.

Thank you for being the church.

With love and prayers as ever,

Revd Becky Bevan, Vicar

Simon Pook and Rita Gardner, Churchwardens