

What you need to know about coming to St Mary's, Lynton to celebrate the Eucharist: Sunday 11am from 23rd August onwards (I)

I am delighted to welcome you back to share in worship in church and to celebrate the sacrament of the Eucharist within our community again. I also understand that this raises some anxiety for many and I want to give as clear a picture as possible in advance, of the preparations we have made and what is required to comply with guidelines to help us stay safe. Please don't hesitate to contact with me if you have any questions. I am very grateful to the working group who are making sure we can do this with reverence and care. This guidance sheet deals with the practicalities, I will send a second one which has a more spiritual focus to help you prepare for worshipping in our new context.

Practicalities:

- **Face coverings:** Church of England guidelines require all who can safely do so to wear a face covering for the duration of the service (removing them to receive communion). The person leading worship can be exempt from this rule and my sense from conversations is that people would prefer me only to wear a mask for the distribution of communion). Could you let me know if you object to me leading and preaching during the service without a mask?
- **Hand sanitiser** should be used on arrival and leaving the church and will be available in these locations. It is also recommended that it is used before receiving communion and after touching a mask. If you have your own hand sanitiser it would be wise to have it with you so that you can use it easily at any time that suits you
- **Seating** The seating has been re-arranged to enable 2m social distancing to be the norm. Only those who are part of the same household should sit together and it would be appreciated if we can leave the larger groups of chairs for larger households. A steward will give help with this when you

come in. We are allowing for a maximum capacity of **40** people.

- **Movement around the church** There will be stewards to help with all aspects of moving around the church so it should feel straight forward. Please observe the 2m distancing we are now used to. The main door will be the entrance and the side door near the Lady Chapel will be the exit and there will be a one way system marked on the floor. You will be guided when the time comes to receive communion and how to leave safely.
- **Track and Trace** Forms will be available on your chairs that enable you to leave you contact details for track and trace purposes. This is voluntary but would clearly be something helpful to the cause of helping communal safety. It would be great if you could bring your own pen to fill these in. The forms can be left on the table as you exit, will be stored safely and destroyed after 21 days according to law.
- **Collection:** I would encourage everyone who can to organise the way they give to their own church with their treasurer. We will not be able to pass a plate during the service and if there is a desire for a plate at the door we can probably do that – but we want to avoid volunteers having to come into contact with cash if at all possible.
- **Service Sheets** A simple service sheet will be placed on your seat. If you are going to come to church regularly you may wish to take it home and bring it with you each time. Alternatively if you could return them to the table on leaving they will be isolated between services (ie over 72 hours)
- **Music** we will not be able to sing hymns, but I hope to have musical interludes organised to help us reflect.
- **Communion** This will be offered in one kind only (the bread). Those who wish to receive it will be guided up by stewards. I will administer the bread from the nave steps and people will come up one by one via the central aisle to receive standing, returning to their seats by the side aisles.