

CHRIST CHURCH, DARTFORD

Dear Christ Church member,

Further to my letter last week, having now met with the PCC, I am pleased to give more details of how we will conduct our services moving forward.

We are doing this in phases, being cautious for now and relaxing further in the autumn, as and when that feels right.

So, from this Sunday, 25th July 2021, we return to a 8am and 10am service pattern (see item 12 below) following the following guidelines:

1. **Booking** - We will no longer require people to book in advance.
2. **Distancing** - We will continue to sit socially distanced with the sidespeople guiding you where to sit, and continue to keep every other pew vacant. If the numbers increase such that we need those extra seats, we will follow a zig-zag pattern so that people are not sitting directly in front or behind someone else. People will sit spaced out according to households or, if they wish, in a group with friends.
3. **Face Coverings** – We strongly recommend people carry on wearing a face covering in church, but this will no longer have the force of law. As before, if you are medical exempt you don't have to use a mask but also, if for personal reasons you have felt unable to attend church wearing a face covering, you can now take that off. If people have concerns about where they sit in relation to people wearing or not wearing face coverings, let us know and we can take that into account when arranging the seating.
4. **Singing** – We will now start to sing at the 10am service again, but please keep your face covering on to reduce the risks. If you'd rather not be present when there is singing the 8am service is available for you as a spoken service to cover that need.
5. **Communion** -We will continue to serve the wafer only for the time being, with the minister and the people wearing a face covering when going forward. We will continue to serve from the chancel with people coming forward socially distanced. The peace will happen at a distance by hand-signalling, as now.
6. **Hand sanitising** – This will be encouraged when entering the building and when receiving communion.
7. **Mingling** – We would ask that you go to the car park when you want to have a chat.
8. **Track and trace** – the QR code system will still operate on entry.
9. **Junior church** – The plan is to return to Sunday morning Junior Church, face to face, in September but over the summer children will be accommodated in the 10am service.
10. **Crèche** - We cannot offer a staffed crèche yet but the carpeted room will be available if families want to take a child out of the service. There will be toys supplied with wipes available so that you can, please, clean these after use.
11. **Refreshments** – we will not be serving refreshments at this stage but hope to do so in the autumn.
12. **Service Pattern** – We are introducing the following pattern:

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	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5 th Sunday
8am	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion
10am	All Age Worship	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Holy Communion	Morning Worship

Our 10am service will continue to use the Common Worship prayer book (on screen) and at 8am we will use the 1662 Book of Common Prayer for our communion services and Common Worship for Morning Prayer (this is to make the two services a bit closer together in style and content).

13. **Collection** - we will look to return to having a collection plate at the back of church in the next phase.
14. **Online worship** - this will continue so that people don't have to return to the church building yet if they are not ready for that. Initially this will be a recording of the 10am service uploaded for 3pm on the Sunday, but we hope soon to be streaming the 10am service live, so that you can watch at 10am if you wish.
15. **Phone service** – this will now cease as usage has dropped off.
16. **Wednesday prayers** – these will continue from 2-3pm each week.
17. **Other activities** - we are looking to relaunch the Refresh Cafe and Toddlers in September and gradually develop our activities moving on from there.

So, this is a cautious but significant step to normalising our church life. We welcome feedback as we seek God's wisdom moving forward and seek to press into the new opportunities that God gives us.

Thank you all for your support and prayers.

In Christ's love,

Richard

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