**ST PAUL’S CHURCH MEASURES**

**AS WE RESUME THE PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

We have received with joy and thanksgiving the new guidance on resuming public worship. However, we are aware of the different situations we are finding ourselves in. Worship will carry on being livestreamed on Zoom and recorded for Facebook and YouTube. It is important to bear in mind that this is a gradual process. We need to readjust one step at the time. For a period, the Liturgy of the Eucharist might seem a bit unfamiliar for the different safety measures in place. Like everything in life, we adjust at the needs of our present time and context to celebrate the Sacrament of the Eucharist in a welcoming and reverent manner.

We are following the Government’s advice and the Church of England guidelines to reduce the spread of the virus. We have a risk assessment and continuity plan that you can read online. We are carefully following thorough cleaning practice.

**As we resume the public celebration of the Eucharist, please carefully read the following recommendations:**

**For the Congregation**

1. If we have more people attending than places available, we will offer a second service one hour later.
2. St Paul’s church building has in place all the measures for social distancing to keep everyone safe, please remember to keep 2 metres apart from everyone in church. For everyone’s safety, we would encourage you to wear a face covering if it is safe for you to do so.
3. The congregation will find the assigned seats marked with a green tick. Please, avoid the seats, pews and areas with a red cross sign or roped off. The church building is cleaned after every service and critical areas are disinfected to reduce the risk of infection.
4. As you arrive in church, you will be invited to use sanitising gel, and someone will point out a safely designated seat. Please, remain at your seat for the duration of the service. Toilet facilities are available at the Parish Centre. If you have to use them, please move from your seat when nobody is standing or walking in the church aisles.
5. Following Government guidance, a record will be made of the names (and where we do not have them, contact details) of all who attend the service, in case of any subsequent NHS track and trace activity. These records will be retained for 21 days and then discarded.
6. We cannot give out printed orders of service. If you need an order of service to follow the Eucharist, you can ask the Churchwardens for a printed copy that will be safely given to you. Please, keep that copy, take it home with you and use it for each service. It will be your personal copy of the order of service.
7. Sadly, singing is not allowed for now. Music will be played during the service to enhance the beauty of the liturgy, but congregational singing will not take place.
8. At the Peace: we will not exchange the sign of peace physically.
9. No collection will be taken during the service. If you want to support the ministry and mission of St Paul’s, please leave your donation at the beginning or at the end of the service on the plate at the back of the church. Alternatively, you can use planned giving, or online giving.
10. Invitation to receive Communion: Please, remember that nobody will be forced to receive Communion. There’s no expectation for everyone to receive Communion. It is completely acceptable if you feel uneasy about receiving Communion and you would prefer not to do so.
11. During the distribution of Communion: the celebrant will say the words for the invitation to Communion and the words of the giving of Communion once only. When the celebrant says: *‘The body of Christ keep you in eternal life’*. Everyone will respond: *‘Amen’*. Therefore, there is no need to say anything when you receive Communion. Before you receive Communion, someone will pass around with sanitiser gel for those who wish to receive the Sacrament.
12. Please remain in your seat for the distribution of Communion. The celebrant will walk around the church to distribute Communion in one kind (the bread only) at the end of each pew. Please, receive Communion on your hands. The celebrant will sanitise his/her hands before the distribution of Communion and he/she will wear a face covering. Please, indicate to the celebrant if you do not wish to receive Communion.
13. At the end of the service: please remain in your seat until someone comes to invite you to safely walk out. You can stay in the building as long as you wish. Remember that we observe a one direction system in the building. Everyone will be asked to leave the church building through the south door and exit through the Parish Centre door.

**For the Celebrant**

1. The celebration of the Eucharist will take place on the nave altar. The celebrant will approach the nave altar from the vestry door. Before the service, the celebrant will wash his/her hands with soap and water. The gospel will be read from the nave altar and the celebrant’s seat will be the Vicar’s stall. The sermon will be delivered from the pulpit.
2. For the time being, there will be no servers at the altar. The Vicar will prepare the elements for the Eucharist observing all the safety measures. There will be a designated ciborium for the people’s hosts. This ciborium will be filled by the Vicar with the people’s hosts and only the celebrant will touch the ciborium for the distribution of Communion. It will be kept covered for most of the Liturgy.
3. The celebrant will wear a face covering during the distribution of Communion and use sanitiser gel:

- at the offertory: before placing the sacred vessels on the altar.

- before and after the distribution of Communion.

1. After the dismissal, the celebrant will walk down the central aisle and greet the congregation at the back of the church building observing social distancing.

**For the Readers and Intercessors**

The Readings will be delivered from the pulpit, and the Prayers of Intercession will be led from the back of the church, using a radio microphone. After the Collect, or after the Creed, please move to the appropriate place.

**For the Churchwardens & Sidesperson**

1. CW will be at the church entrance to welcome people and dispense sanitiser gel. CW will direct people to their designated seats. CW will record names and where necessary contact details of attendees.
2. CW will host the Zoom meeting from the back of the church and play recorded music, live readings or intercessions when/ if needed.
3. CW will pass around (using face covering and gloves) offering sanitiser gel after the invitation to Communion.
4. At the end of the service: CW will invite people to safely leave their seat and the church building.

**Roles and responsibilities:**

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| **Role/Task** | **Name** | **Observations** |
| Setting up Sacred vessels, the altar and altar camera | The Vicar |  |
| Hosting livestream service on Zoom | CW |  |
| Welcome and congregation’s assistance | CW/Sidesperson |  |
| Recording names and contact details of all who attend a service, and retaining for 21 days. | CW/Sidesperson |  |
| Cleaning  (before and after the service) | Vicar/CW/Sidesperson |  |
| Playing recorded music | CW/Sidesperson |  |
| Ensure reader is seated in north aisle and issue radio microphone to Intercessor. | CW/Sidesperson |  |
| Invite people to safely leave the church building. | CW/Sidesperson |  |
| Maintaining and displaying a visible cleaning schedule for church and toilets. | CW |  |

The Reverend John Vilaseca Bruch, Ann Laing and Sandra Graham,

Incumbent Church Wardens

Wednesday 1 July 2020