

## Public Worship at St Oswald's:

### *Staying safe during the Coronavirus (Covid 19) pandemic*

We wish to offer worship in a way that is reverent, comfortable to the congregation and careful of the safety of others and of self. Our main approach to this is through enabling and asking the congregation to maintain a physical distance of 2 metres between people of different households or social bubbles combined with exercising good hand hygiene.

**If you, or a member of your household or social bubble, are showing symptoms of the coronavirus you must stay at home.**

This sheet seeks to inform you of what we are doing to keep you safe during the Coronavirus pandemic and of what we ask you to do to safeguard yourselves and others.

## General hygiene



Hand sanitiser is provided at the entrance to the church and in the pews. Facilities for hand washing are available in the toilet areas.

- Please use sanitiser on arriving and leaving the building, immediately before and after receiving communion; attaching or removing face coverings and when you have used a tissue or touched your face.

We leave the recommended 72 hours between regular times when the church is open – except for after Saturday 'Open Church' when seating is rearranged and areas cleaned as appropriate. The whole church is cleaned on a weekly basis and after any additional gatherings.

We keep the West and South doors, and internal doors, open to allow for good circulation of air.

Printed service booklets are quarantined for a week before reuse, and they are available for you to print so that you can bring your own each week.

- Please take home printed materials that you have used during the service – especially if you are suffering with coughs and sneezes;

## Face coverings



It is a legal requirement for face coverings to be worn in places of worship unless you are exempt from doing so.

The presiding ministers, readers and intercessors are allowed to speak with uncovered faces for clarity and in order to support those who need to see the movement of a person's lips.

Obviously face coverings need to be removed in order to receive communion and care must be taken to sanitise hands before and after removing and then replacing the covering and at other times when it has been handled.

## Communion

The communion and the vessels are handled only by the president who will sanitise their hands at all stages of the preparation. All elements, other than those to be consumed by the president, remain covered during the consecration.

The president offers the bread at arms-length and drops it into the palm of the communicant – avoiding making physical contact.

**Please:**

- remove your face covering and use the sanitiser immediately before coming forward for communion and again after replacing your face covering;
- observe distancing and the one-way system when moving from and to your seat;
- stretch your arms as far as is comfortable to receive the bread in the palm of your hand;

## Keeping distance and moving around



We place service materials on the pews that are available to help individual households or bubbles sit 2m apart from others.

Our forward-facing arrangement enhances this distancing.

**Please:**

- go straight to a seat as soon as you enter the church building and stay there, apart from when coming to receive communion;
- avoid turning around to face one another or to talk to one another while in the building;
- remain seated throughout the service, unless you are invited to stand;

## One way system



We are operating a one-way system of movement into and through the church; Down the central aisle towards the altar and back up the side aisles; Entry is through the west (main) door and the exit is through the south (lady chapel) door unless directed otherwise.

**Please:**

- follow the system, maintaining the 2m distancing;
- keep moving, especially as you leave, until you are well clear of the doorway;
- avoid conversations until you are outside.

## Just in case...

We keep a register, with contact details, of who has attended each service. This would allow us to share information with the health authorities should a person who has attended church become infected with the virus.

**If you become infected with the coronavirus or need to be tested for it you should contact the vicar on 020 8764 2853.**

Guidance on all matters related to the Coronavirus can be found on the Church of England website and at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)