



17th July 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I received guidance last night from the Church of England on Stage 4 of the pandemic. Whilst legally restrictions have all but gone, guidelines are in place for shops, restaurants, public transport, hospitals and now for Places of Worship.

At this stage the responsibility of the shape of our services and activities rests with each Vicar in every parish. The guidance is clear that we should go carefully for the love of neighbour, recognising that with every unlocking comes an increased risk of transmission. The decisions that I have made come out of love for each one of you, that said I am sure that some may feel I have been too cautious whilst others not cautious enough. Each Vicar in every parish is encouraged to make decisions for their specific place of worship taking into account the building capacity, age of congregation and so on and so on. This means that you will find that the decisions that I have taken will not be the same as churches with different buildings or/and demographics.

The full guidance if you would like to read it can be found here
<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance>

Our New Service Pattern

For the time being whilst we rest, rebuild and restore we will be holding one Sunday service each week that moves between our churches, please do attend services in both buildings as one larger congregation.

From Sunday 25th July our service pattern will move to

Weekly

Sunday 10am one service in the parish of Holy Communion with Children's Groups

Wednesday 10:30am via Zoom, a service of Spiritual Communion

Monthly

Sunday 3pm – 4pm Outdoor Church gathering at The Lickey Monument on the first Sunday of the month.

Throughout August

Picnic as a whole church family in the Vicarage Garden if the weather is fair, every Wednesday in August 12noon – 2pm. Bring your picnic including drink and something to sit on. There will be a donations bucket towards the work of CMS and a stall supporting the work of Mission Partner Heather.

What can I expect at a Sunday 10am service?

Location Our 10am service will mostly alternate between buildings; the exception will be when a wedding or baptism has taken place on a Saturday so do mark your calendars very clearly.

25th July Holy Trinity, Rose Hill, Lickey, B45 8RR

1st August St Catherine, St Catherine's Road Blackwell B60 1BN

8th August St Catherine

15th August Holy Trinity

22nd August St Catherine

29th August St Catherine

Test and Trace We will ask you on arrival to check in via our QR code on the NHS APP or to leave your name and number.

Hand Sanitiser We will ask you on arrival to sanitise your hands

Will I need to wear a mask? By law you are not required to do so, however the guidance is that we will encourage you to wear a mask indoors (unless exempt) when you are not socially distancing out of love for each other.

Will I need to socially distance? You are not required to do so, however we will reserve some seating for those who wish to remain at a social distance from others.

What about Sunday School and Creche? Yes! Our Sunday School teachers from both churches have merged to form one larger team so familiar faces will be ready for you. We will have two groups for children aged 2-6years and 7-13 years. We will ask children to sanitise their hands on arrival to their groups and we encourage parents to where possible leave the children with their leaders to minimise the numbers of adults present. For under 2's there is a creche available for you to stay with your children as well as a friendly face to settle you in.

Will I be able to enjoy a coffee after the service? Tea and Coffee will be available at the end of our services for you to enjoy. The guidance is for mask wearing in crowded spaces so I encourage you to find quiet spot to sit and chat, or take your drink outdoors.

Will there be Prayer Ministry? At the end of the service our prayer team will be available to pray for and with you by The Font in Holy Trinity and in The Lady Chapel at St Catherine.

Will we be singing? Sadly, we won't be singing indoors just yet, though once the third wave has peaked we will revisit this. We hope to be able to gather for sung worship outside in the next few weeks – watch this space!

Will we be able to share The Peace? You are free to share The Peace, however please respect those who are socially distancing.

What will happen during Communion? You will be invited to come forward to receive Communion in one kind only, for now we won't be sharing the Common Cup, we will revisit this once the third wave has peaked. We ask you to stand at the rail rather than kneel so as to minimise touch. Please outstretch your hands ready to receive or keep your hands by your side for a prayer of blessing.

Ventilation We will be keeping our doors and where possible windows open to aid ventilation, please dress accordingly.

In Summary we will be reintroducing Sunday School, Prayer Ministry, sharing The Peace, coming forward to receive Communion, enjoying tea and coffee, sitting next to one another. At the moment we will not be sharing the Common Cup or Singing inside.

Wednesday at 10:30am

This service remains for now on zoom both online and via telephone to allow those who are self-isolating, Covid positive or who need to remain at home to take part in a weekly service. Please get in touch with Sandra Smith to obtain an order of service.

Online

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87151376169?pwd=SGZNNDDJUajZUQWNteUVNQk1UbUhMZz09>

Meeting ID: 871 5137 6169 Passcode: 974827

Via Telephone

1. At 10:25am telephone number 0203 901 7895 United Kingdom (UK charges will apply)
2. You will be asked to enter the meeting ID: 871 5137 6169 then press #.
3. You MAY be prompted to enter the meeting Passcode: 974827 then press #.

Outdoor Church – Sunday 1st August

Meets on the first Sunday of every month at 3pm at the foot of Lickey Monument. Bring something to sit on, a snack and a drink and be ready to either discuss or explore the muddy wood together. This is for all ages, dogs on leads are welcome. Please park in the Trinity Centre carpark and walk from there. This is an easy place to invite family members or friends who don't usually come to church

What about other Church Activities?

Please bear with me as I work my way through the guidelines for Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Homegroups, Tiny Church, Youth Groups, Coffee Cake and Chat, Bereavement Care, Home Communion and hiring out each of our halls.

And finally

Do make the most of the free lateral flow tests (available from the chemist in Barnt Green), I take a test every Saturday and Tuesday to make sure that I am doing all that I can to keep you safe before I serve you communion! And of course, if you have been asked to self-isolate or have symptoms or are unwell, please do stay at home for the safety of everyone.

I have a week of annual leave booked from 23rd July (to make sure I am here for our busy Wedding Season) so you will be under Angela's direction for the first 10am service on 25th July.

A huge thank you to everyone who has got us this far, your prayers and practical support of chair moving, cleaning and populating rotas have made a service at 10am on Sunday 25th July possible. Please share this news with friends and family and invite them to join you.

Sent with my prayers

Sheri

Rev Sheri Gidney

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