



# ST ANDREW'S

## *Ashton-on-Ribble*

### RETURNING TO SERVICES IN THE CHURCH BUILDING

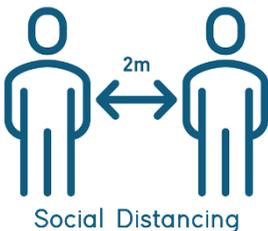
#### A GUIDE FOR CHURCH FAMILY

These last few months have been testing in all sorts of ways as we have had to get used to life under Lockdown. I know that many of us have missed being able to meet together as a church family in the church building although it's been great to hear how many of you have been joining in with our live-streamed Services.

I expect that you have heard that the Government have now given permission to Churches to reopen their buildings for Services. The PCC have therefore taken the decision that we will begin our Services back in the church building on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July and would love to invite you to think about joining us then. We will be continuing to live-stream our Services so that we will still be meeting together as a church family, with some still in their homes and some in the church building.

JULY 2020						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

We will all have to consider various factors, both to do with our own circumstances and also thinking of others, as we make the decision about what we will do. For some who are shielding it will not be possible to return yet and the Government advice is still that those who are vulnerable or elderly should stay at home. Others may choose not to attend because they are aware that the experience of being in a Service will be so different from what we are used to given the various restrictions, e.g. no congregational singing, no refreshments after the Service, etc. Those with younger children will need to think through the difficulties of children understanding and adhering to the strict social distancing measures that are in place throughout the Service.



Social Distancing

However a few of us will be keen to give it a go and feel that we and those in our care will be able to attend the Services safely and happily.

Whatever decision we come to for ourselves and those in our households, we are still one church family united in the Lord Jesus and this is a particular opportunity to show how we can love one another as he has loved us. This guide should provide all the information you need for planning to join us in the church buildings. Please be assured that we have undertaken to make our buildings as safe as possible following the guidelines of both the Government and the Church of England. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns or would like to make us aware of any other need you may have.

## BEFORE COMING TO A SERVICE

It is important that you do not attend Services if you or anyone in your household is displaying any of the following symptoms of Covid-19:

- A high temperature – hot to touch on your chest or back
- A new continuous cough
- A loss or change in your normal sense of smell or taste



We have made a video to walk people through entering the church building; please watch this if you can. You can find it on our Church YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/standrewsashton](http://www.youtube.com/standrewsashton)

## ARRIVING FOR THE SERVICE

The Service will begin promptly at 10.30am. The doors will be open from 10.15-10.35am so please time your arrival carefully to prevent queues or disruption to the Service once it has started.



Please enter through the Church Hall; if there is a queue please maintain 2m social distancing guided by the markings on the floor.

Please be ready to sanitise your hands with the alcohol gel provided and make sure that we record your name just in case we need to track and trace people after the Service.

Please fill up the available pews from the front of the church building as directed, starting with the pews on the main aisle and then the pews on the side aisle. To maintain social distancing we can only allow one household/bubble per pew, whether that is an individual, couple or family.

We only have room for 25 households and so will have to shut the doors when we reach this limit. We are very sorry if for any reason we have to turn people away and ask you to bear with us in these unusual circumstances.

Please try to avoid touching surfaces wherever possible to minimise the risk of transmission.

## DURING THE SERVICE

The Services will be live-streamed on YouTube which will require the use of some extra equipment and the Service Leader and Preacher will focus both on the camera and those present in the building. We will be aiming to keep the Services to 1 hour.

All the words needed during the Service will be displayed on the screen. There will also be copies of the Service Sheet on the pews for those who would like them; if you use them please take them home with you after the Service.



All our songs and hymns will be played by the music group but sadly we are not allowed to participate in congregational singing.

Please stay in the pew and avoid moving around the building for the entirety of the Service unless there is an emergency.

There are no Junior Church Groups for now, so children of all ages will need to stay with parents/carers in the pews for the entire Service. We hope to review this for September as the restrictions continue to relax.

The disabled loo is open for emergency use only, please try to avoid needing to use it. All other rooms, loos and corridors in the Church Hall are closed.

## AFTER THE SERVICE

You will be directed to leave the building one pew at a time from the back of the Church. Please take all your belongings with you and make your way straight out of the building through the Church Hall.

There will be no refreshments served after the Service and, though many will find it difficult, you are asked not to stop to chat anywhere within the church building or grounds.

If you test positive for Covid-19 after attending one of our Services, please contact Michelle Bateman ([administrator@standrewsashton.org.uk](mailto:administrator@standrewsashton.org.uk)) as soon as possible so that we are able to track and trace those you might have come into contact with.



## A FINAL WORD

Thank you! Thank you for bearing with all of this which is so alien to our regular approach to our Services. In many ways life coming out of Lockdown is much harder than life within it. We are aware that all the rules and regulations above will mean that our Services still feel far removed from our normal experience of gathering together as a church family.

In this interim phase we want to be a bright witness to the Lord Jesus in the way we go about our Services as those around us watch on. This involves honouring God, submitting to the guidelines from the Government and Church of England and working hard to minimise the risk of spreading Covid-19. We all need to play our part as we seek to reduce any sense of fear or anxiety among those who might attend our Services and work hard to create a safe and loving welcome for all who come.