

St Helen's Church Tarporley.

How Our Sunday Service Will Look:

1. To help with social distancing we will continue to operate a **one-way system and ask you to enter by the North Door (the one closest to the Swan) and leave by the South Door (the Lychgate side)**. Signs will be in position to remind and guide everyone.

2. Please continue to **sanitise your hands on entering and leaving**

3. Please **maintain social distancing** at all times. I know you will all want to chat and sit together but please do so whilst following the current guidelines

4. **Masks are now mandatory in Church although anyone leading the service or speaking publicly within it** (such as reading a lesson or leading intercessions) **is exempt**. So please remember to bring and wear a mask. We must however remember that some people are not required to wear them even when it is mandatory. As the government guidelines say: there are some circumstances, for health, age or equality reasons, where people are not expected to wear face coverings. Please be mindful of this, noting that some people are less able to wear face coverings, and that the reasons for this may not be visible to others.

5. Sadly for the time being **we cannot sing** during our services and because of the restricted and enclosed space in the Tower **bells cannot be rung**

6. To help with social distancing and the level of cleaning we have to undertake, we have to **restrict access to some pews, and we ask to observe the signs and keep 2m apart from others who are not part of your household**

I know that this will be difficult for those who have a favourite seat which is temporarily out of use but please take the opportunity while it lasts to try different views of the church!

7. We now feel able to return to the use of our **printed orders of service. Rather than being handed to you, these will be left on the table as you enter.**

Please do not share copies with anyone outside of your household and at the end of the service place them at the table by the South Door exit. We will keep a separate stock of books for Sunday and Wednesday services and so the orders of service will not be used from one week to the next and so 'clean' when they are next picked up.

8. I know many of you are eager to help but for all those raring to go please be patient and understand that there will be others nervous about returning. I do not wish to put pressure on anyone to return until they are ready for this reason and for a little longer, **all rotas are currently suspended**. There are no leaflets or books to hand out and we want to avoid a bottle neck at the doors, so we will not have sides people; neither refreshments nor chalice can be offered, and the Minister will do all readings and intercessions. I have worked hard to increase the fellowship, presence and voices in our services so this is a difficult step for me, but we take it to keep everyone as safe and comfortable as we can. We will return to rotas as soon as guidelines allow, and we all feel it is right so to do.

9. Communion:

Anyone involved in preparing the table (and for the time being this will just be me) will sanitise their hands and use the minimum number of clean cloths and utensils. There will be no procession of the elements.

Wafers will remain covered whilst the prayer of Eucharist is spoken.

We will only distribute wafers. (The priest alone consumes the wine on behalf of the entire congregation)

The clergy will sanitise their hands before preparing and again before distributing.

The clergy will not say any words as they offer the bread and will wear masks.

When you move to receive communion, we ask you to **continue, as far as possible, to observe social distancing measures.** (The heating grilles in the floor at St Helen's are a good guide to a 2m distance.)

To stop any possibility of infection via the communion rail, **we all receive the wafers whilst standing.**

The clergy will therefore stand in front of the communion rail and ask you to **move up the main aisle in single file (and if there are two stations for distribution to go to whichever is free first).**

To help with flow and social distancing we then ask you to **return to your seat via the side chapel**

If the extra steps make this difficult, or if (for any reason) you would **prefer not to leave your seat, please let us know before the service and we can bring wafers to you.**

10. **We still cannot serve refreshments;** at the end of the service **the minister(s) will leave by the South Door and wait under the Lychgate.** This prevents any risk of a bottle neck at the church door but still allows you the opportunity to talk to the minister(s). Please leave the church when you feel comfortable (and continue to observe social distancing).

11. We will not include a collection during the service, but our collection plates will be left out along with our digital card machine (and sanitiser) and **we welcome donations as you enter or leave.** Like everyone else over the last few months, our income has dropped because we have not been able to receive collections (safe receipt and counting of monies will follow the latest guidelines.)

12. To continue to minimise risk **we have removed items** that might be touched by many hands such as visitor's books, pens, church leaflets and guides, and the toys and objects in the children's area. **(Carers are welcome to bring their own books, crayons, soft toys etc for use by their own family)**

13. For the same reason we have removed the prayer request book and matches in All Souls Chapel. **Candles will be refreshed** and left in situ each day and we ask you to either light a candle from one that is already lit or **bring with you (and take away) your own matches** or lighter.

14. To help with social distancing and improve air flow and circulation **we will open both sets of double doors and keep them open as far as is possible during the service.**

15. To ensure that the pre-school can safely open and because we cannot safely monitor and clean both the Church and Toilets at once, **the Done Room will be locked and the toilets will remain closed**

16. We remain **unable to accept Food-bank donations** because Mid Cheshire Food-bank is not yet able to receive them other than through supermarkets. You can still donate with physical items in store as you do your own shopping or with cash online through their website.

With every blessing

Georgina

Revd. Georgina Watmore
Rector of Tarporley