

## **To All Members of St Teilo's Bishopston**

I have met with all the Church Wardens and we have examined the potential for opening the church on a limited basis on a Sunday Morning at 10.00 am as a venue for Parish worship. (Potentially also Wednesday Midweek)

At first I will apply for risk assessment for one church only 10.00 on a Sunday for Bishopston if after a month we have got this right and ironed out any glitches we will see if churches wish extend this.

## **However I wish the church to be seen as a Benefice Resource for all Churches**

However, the following conditions would have to be met.

- a) Everyone sitting at least 2 metres from each other
- b) Using the gallery, a total of Bishopston: 20 plus one standing warden plus another warden to stand at the door to let people in and celebrant
- c) There will be no servers.
- d) Congregation will have to ring or email the week before to reserve a seat. If they are unsuccessful, they will have to roll over to the following week
- e) This will be open to all churches
- f) I would wish to prioritise those who are not online and have not been worshipping online via YouTube or Zoom.
- g) Sunday and Wednesday You Tube services will continue and Zoom Morning Prayer on Thursdays
- h) The congregation would have to queue outside at social distancing and admitted one (or a couple) at a time and directed to a seat filling the front of the church first and working towards the back. If people are physically able to, we can accommodate in that 20 four people in the gallery (Four singles or two couples). Once in their seat they cannot move around and mingle as this will breach the 2 meters.
- i) On entering and leaving the church they will be asked to sanitise their hands
- j) They would leave their seat from the back first as directed by the warden and keeping social distance. On leaving the building they would be encouraged not to gather on the path but if they wish to talk to gather in the case of Pennard socially distanced at the Community ground or carpark and in the case of Bishopston outside on the road.
- k) The door will have to be kept slightly ajar to enable the circulation of fresh air.
- l) Masks will be worn inside at all times, except at the point of receiving communion.
- m) Hands will be sanitised before and after receiving communion
- n) We cannot take up a collection but there will be a plate at the back for the offering to be left in. Those handling the collection for counting have to wear disposable gloves.
- o) Communion will be in one kind only and people will have to come up one at a time and then return to their seat. (If physically unable to come for

communion then the celebrant will bring it to them) They will sanitize at a point before they come up and when they return.

- p) We are going to ask that on leaving church people clear the path and if they wish to speak to friends do so once in the community area in which social distancing can be observed.
- q) There will be no singing but music as we enter and leave and during communion.
- r) Votive candles may not be lit.
- s) All liturgy will be single sheet disposable or brought back for the next service you attend. The service would be simple and, in a sense 'stripped back' and to commence we will use recorded music as we enter, leave and during communion.
- t) The Church would have to be thoroughly cleaned by a contract cleaner prior to opening.
- u) We would clean where people have sat immediately following the service before the church closes
- v) Only the warden on duty and the cleric allowed in the Vestry and the cleric would take up the elements and lay out the altar before the service and bring all the vessels and elements back to the vestry
- w) We would have to implement track and trace. This would be aided by the list produced by the cleric during the week of those who have booked. This will have all the details on the sheet of contact information etc. When people arrive on the Sunday they simply sign a sheet to say they are there. The two lists both booking and signing in are then kept for track and trace records and stored.
- x) Communion in one kind only to be given at the chancel steps to avoid people needing to use the rails on the steps and the need for a steward on duty at the steps. It will also avoid the kneeling and touching or the altar rail in the sanctuary. If possible the services will be Communion but on occasion it may be Morning Prayer midweek.
- y) The next phase in this process is to complete a risk assessment, however as stated we will need all the relevant certification of insurance fire extinguishers, boilers and electrics to proceed. Scanned copies are acceptable as the process is done by email.
- z) I show below the latest guidelines on lift sharing as they show in reality that we are discouraged to do so.

***One Final point I must add is that due to very rigid regulations to the use of toilets we cannot at this stage safely make the toilets available.***

All of these are within the Church in Wales and Welsh Government Guidelines and so we are not being 'awkward' but staying within the guidance which we have to strictly adhere to once they form part of the Risk Assessment which will be signed off by The Archdeacon.

The one thing I should point out is that the total of 20 may be altered by a couple sitting together in one pew. We have based the 20 on all singles. However, do remember that children under 11 will be welcome but not counted in the total and also we will have to sit couples in a way that does not infringe on the 2 mt distance to the next seated person.

**You should try not to share a vehicle with those outside your household or social bubble. If you need to, try to:**

- **share the transport with the same people each time**
- **keep to small groups of people at any one time**
- **open windows for ventilation**
- **travel side by side or behind other people, rather than facing them, where seating arrangements allow**
- **face away from each other**
- **consider seating arrangements to maximise distance between people in the vehicle**
- **clean your car between journeys using standard cleaning products - make sure you clean door handles and other areas that people may touch**
- **ask the driver and passengers to wear a face covering**

**The Department for Transport has provided specific guidance on using private vehicles. Please see their guidance on private cars and other vehicles for more information on car sharing and traveling with people outside your household group**

I trust all this makes sense but in practice we will no doubt encounter one or two hitches!

Blessings.

Peter