

## Opening the St Andrew's building for worship: FAQs

**1. When can we come back to the St Andrews building for church services?**

From Sunday 6 September. Government and Diocesan Guidelines permitting, our hope is to be open every week thereafter.

**2. Who can come?**

Everyone! All ages are welcome to join together in worship, provided they do not have symptoms of Covid-19 (see below).

Places will be limited, though, as we need to make sure we follow social distancing rules to keep everyone safe.

**3. What services will there be?**

On Sunday 6 September, there will be one service at 9.00am. This will be a said Holy Communion service. The service should last about 40 minutes. We are starting with just one service so that we can assess our arrangements for safe, socially distanced worship, and make any necessary changes.

From Sunday 13 September we will have two services every Sunday: an 8.00am Book of Common Prayer Communion and a 9.00am Communion Service.

There will also be a Midweek Holy Communion Service on Wednesdays at 12.00pm from Wednesday 9 September.

**4. What will happen when I arrive?**

There may be a queue outside. If so, please keep to the social distancing rules (one metre apart if wearing a mask, otherwise two metres apart) and queue with consideration for others. We suggest you come a little earlier than normal to allow sufficient time to be seated before the service begins.

You will be greeted at the door by a steward who will explain what is happening and answer your questions. That person will ask you to sanitise your hands as you come in. Sanitiser is provided.

You will be shown to a seat. For the safety of everyone in the Church, please do not move from that seat until you are invited to go up to receive the bread and invited to leave at the end of the service. If you have particular needs – e.g. if you need the hearing induction loop – please tell us straight away so that we can seat you in the best place to meet your needs.

**5. Will there be Holy Communion?**

Yes. Following guidance from the Diocese it will be a bit different, but mostly will be what you are used to. For the moment, there will be no distribution of wine. And to make sure we keep everyone as safe as possible, we will be using individual wafers.

As usual, Rev Dr Steve will bless the bread and wine. But only he will take wine (on behalf of all the congregation). The wafers will be in a ciborium until it is time to distribute them.

**6. How will Holy Communion work?**

As usual, you will go up to the table to receive a wafer. The stewards will tell you when to go to the table, following social distancing guidance.

We will now be using a Nave table, not the High Table in the chancel. If you wish to receive a wafer, we will ask you to come up to the Nave table, and hold out your hands to receive. Please then follow the instructions to return to your seat. There will be an easy to follow one-way system.

Rev Dr Steve will sanitise his hands prior to the giving of wafers.

**7. Will there be Bible readings?**

Yes.

**8. Will there be intercessory prayers?**

Yes.

**9. Will there be music?**

Diocesan Guidelines currently prohibit singing, either congregational or by a choir. But there will be music at the start and end of the 9.00am service.

**10. Will there be service sheets?**

For the 9.00am service, there will be single use service sheets in the pew for you to use.

At the 8.00am service, there will be the usual booklets in the pew. You can use these with confidence as they will have been untouched for 7 days.

**11. Will there be a financial collection?**

We will put baskets at the exits for those who wish to make an offering by cash.

Text and online giving details will be provided.

We hope to have a contactless terminal in the building in the near future should you wish to make an offering by card.

**12. Does this mean that the online worship will stop?**

No. The 10.30am online Sunday service will continue. Midweek Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer online services will continue, as will TFG once schools are back.

**13. Will I have to sign in?**

Yes. We are asking every household or individual attending to provide contact details for NHS Test and Trace purposes. There will be a slip of paper and a pencil in the pews to write down your name and phone number. The pencils will not have been used in the previous 7 days and you can use your own pen if you prefer. Please leave the slips of paper and pencils in the pew.

No one else will see your contact details. The slips will be gathered up, sealed in an envelope with the date written on it, and locked away in the safe. These will be destroyed after 21 days unless needed for NHS Test and Trace.

**14. Will I have to wear a mask?**

Guidance from the Government and the Diocese is that everyone should wear a face covering in churches unless they are exempt. The priest does not have to cover their face as this could make it harder for people to hear what they are saying.

We will provide single-use masks for people who do not have them.

People are exempt from wearing a mask if:

- they are not able to put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability;
- putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause severe distress;
- they are providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading to communicate;
- they are children under the age of 11.

**15. Will it be safe?**

We are doing all we can to make it as safe as possible, following the guidance from the Diocese and Government.

**Please do not come if you have the symptoms of Covid-19** or have been in contact with anyone with symptoms in the last 14 days.

**Symptoms of Covid-19 are:**

- a high temperature
- new, continuous cough and/or
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

We will make sure people are seated at the recommended distance from each other. People from the same household or bubble will be able to sit together, but everyone else will have to take a separate pew. No one may sit in a pew with a person who is not in their household or bubble.

We will use different pews at each of the three weekly services. These will be marked by colour, so it will be easy to see which pews are to be used for each service. Stewards will show you to a seat, explain what we are doing, and answer questions.

There will be floor markings to assist social distancing.

Stewards will manage the flow of people leaving at the end of the service, using different doors from the entrance, to minimise risk of contact.

Hand sanitiser will be available at the entrance and exits, and all touch points will have been cleaned before the service.

As the South Chapel will have been used for prayer on Saturday between 11.00am-1.00pm, it will not be used during Sunday services.

While the weather permits, we will keep a door open during the Sunday services to help ventilation.

**16. What if someone in the congregation develops Covid-19?**

We are asking everyone who attends to provide contact details for NHS Test and Trace purposes (see above).

If anyone does become ill, we will undertake a deep clean of the Church before any further services take place.

**17. What if I start to feel ill during the service?**

You should go home immediately and follow the Government's Stay-at-Home guidance. If you need clinical advice, contact NHS 111 in the first instance. Anyone who may have been in contact with the person who has become unwell should wash their hands thoroughly, but they do not need to take any other specific action unless they develop symptoms themselves or are advised to do so by NHS Test and Trace.

**18. Will we be able to share the Peace?**

We will not be able to leave pews at the Peace to approach other people, or shake hands like we usually do. We do not encourage people to turn around and talk to others during the service. We will share the Peace with the words, "The peace of the Lord be with you. *And also with you.*"

**19. What will happen at the end of the service?**

Please stay seated until a Steward asks you to leave.

We will use two exit doors to enable people to leave as quickly and easily as possible. Please follow the Steward's instructions to exit.

**20. Will there be refreshments?**

We will not be able to offer refreshments until further notice.

**21. Are there limits to the numbers who can attend?**

Yes. Social distancing rules mean we are limited by the number of pews in the Church and the need to leave sufficient space between people attending for worship.

**22. What if the Church is full when I get there?**

Unfortunately, we will not be able to let you in if all available pews are full.

You might consider arriving in plenty of time before the service is due to begin, following queuing guidance if necessary.

Please consider attending the Wednesday Communion Service, rather than a Sunday service, if you can. This will enable as many people as possible to attend worship across the whole week.

We may need to explore an advance booking system for services if demand is high.

**24. Do I have to book a place in church in advance?**

Not at the moment.

**25. Will I be able to sign in for school places?**

You will be able to sign in for school criteria at all weekly services, including Wednesday.

**26. Will there be Sunday club?**

We are unable to offer any children or youth provision at the current time.

**27. Can children come?**

All ages are welcome to attend worship. However, for the safety of everyone in Church, children must remain in the pew with their accompanying adult, other than going up for Holy Communion or if they need to visit the toilet (see below).

***The Children's Corner is closed.*** We will not be able to make books/toys/colouring pencils etc available. But you are very welcome to bring your own.

**28. Will I have to sanitise my hands?**

Yes, we will ask you to use hand sanitiser when you come in. Sanitiser is provided, but you can also use your own. There will be sanitiser at the exits as well.

**29. Will the toilets be open?**

Yes. We ask you to wash your hands for at least 20 seconds before and after using the toilets, and to wipe surfaces after use with the anti-bacterial wipes provided, for the safety of others. Parents are asked to accompany their children.

**More detailed guidance on Covid-19 and churches may be found here:**

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches#na>