

Dear Friends,

Greetings as we prepare to resume public worship and gather again around the altar.

Of course we will do so in accordance with guidance and advice from Her Majesty's Government and her Bishops!

The usual provision of Sunday materials on the website, on Facebook and by delivery will continue, as will the Church at Home services offered by the diocese - listen out for St Andrew's contribution this week as we mark the birthday of the NHS

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19/livestream/>

Our usual weekly pattern of Eucharistic worship will resume on Sunday. The Eucharist will be celebrated at 8am and 10am. Social distancing and hygiene will be essential. We have got very used to following instructions and if we do so in church we will all stay as safe as possible. Seats which may be used will be marked and churchwardens will help with this.

Please do not gather in groups as you enter and leave the church.

At the 10am Parish Eucharist there will be organ music but no singing.

Communion will be received in one kind as it was before the lockdown. You will receive standing one at a time and no words will be said. You should sanitise hands before and after (you may bring your own hand sanitiser or use what is provided in church).

If it is your custom to receive a blessing this will be given in silence but the priest will make the sign of the cross.

The wearing of face-coverings is voluntary but please feel free to do so.

Service sheets will be provided as usual which you must take away. Please do not leave them in church. At 8am we will use our usual books and these will be quarantined for 48 hours after each use.

If the weather allows the doors will be kept open to allow a through-flow of air and reduce the need to touch door handles.

We warmly welcome our children and young people as they are part of the worshipping body of Christ. They must be supervised by parents or guardians at all times and appropriate hygiene precautions followed. Activities will be provided in individual packs which they must take home.

Using 2 metres social distancing St Andrew's can accommodate approx. 45 individuals in church but this will vary depending on households and bubbles. If you can please let me know which service you are coming to, as that will help with planning, but it is not necessary to book a seat! We will try to accommodate as many as we can within the guidelines, but please do not be offended if you are asked to attend another service. If necessary we can add a further Sunday service at 12 noon. The Monday, Wednesday and Thursday services will be held in the nave to allow distancing and you may feel less anxious at one of these services.

We move forward in faith and trust and in care for one another. And with patience (this is new territory for us all).

With my love and prayers,

Fr Darren