

St Michael's Church Middlewich – Resuming Services after Covid19

I am pleased to say that we are now able to resume services in church as part of the lightening of Government restrictions due to the Covid19 pandemic. The CofE has been issuing its own advice to churches which is updated on a weekly basis as the national guidelines change. We have planned to resume a 9:15am said communion service on Sunday's at St Michael's Church Middlewich, from Sunday 9th August 2020.

We welcome you to join us as we once more join together to worship our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in the historic church of Middlewich. The following is a guide to what you can expect to find as someone who attends a service at St Michael's Church, using the current advice from the CofE. (This may change with time).

Said Communion – Sunday's at 9:15am (from 9th August 2020)

Arriving: *Please follow the personal hygiene and social distancing advice at all times*

- Please arrive in good time and be aware that there may be a need to queue due to the Covid19 related measures which follow.
- Enter through the South Door as usual – please sanitize your hands, using the sanitizer provided before entering.
- The sides people will welcome you, but also need to record your name and phone number for the NHS Test & Trace scheme. If your details are already in our parish directory then they will simply tick you as present. If not you will be asked to provide your name and phone number. (This will be retained for 21 days after the service).
- You will then be able to take a service booklet from the table.
- There will not be a collection during the service so please place your gift in the collection plate as you enter.
- At the current time the wearing of a face mask, or face covering, in church is voluntary (at your own discretion).

Seating: *Please continue to maintain personal hygiene and social distancing (2m).*

- The seating is marked out to comply with the 2m social distancing guidelines.
- There will be a maximum capacity of 50 people to maintain the social distancing.
- A green sign means 'please sit here'.
- A red sign means 'do not sit here'.
- Couples and family groups can sit together as 'bubbles'. So please allow the churchwardens and/or sides people to adjust the seating arrangements to accommodate these larger groups if necessary.

Service:

- We will be using the usual 9:15am service booklets. Please follow the words of the service saying the responses as indicated.
- There will not be any congregational singing during the service.
- At communion the president will sanitize their hands and use appropriate PPE.
- Communion will be administered using the bread only, and the president will give you the bread, or wafer, in silence.

Departure:

- After the service please place your service booklet in the box provided by the door. The sides people will not take it from you.
- No refreshments will be available after the service.
- You are asked to leave through the North Door if possible, to maintain a one way system of entering and exiting the building. If this is not possible due to the steps at the North Door then do use the South Door, with the sides people's guidance.

We look forward to welcoming you back to St Michael's Church soon. But please do keep well and stay safe!

I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord' (Psalm 122:1)

Simon Drew (Rector)

22nd August 2020