



Update on restrictions in services after 19th July 2021

I have been asked by a number of our congregation about what will be different in church from tomorrow when many of the legal restrictions are removed by the Government. We will be taking a sensible approach, and initially you will not see too much change. We will continue to make the most of the size of our church building and encourage ongoing social distancing. The red ribbons will remain on every other pew row, and we will continue to use the gallery during our Sunday morning service. We will also be making the most of how naturally well ventilated and draughty our church is. Hand sanitising points will remain in the same locations around church.

Face coverings will be optional; however, you will see me continue to wear one during the distribution of communion and the marshals will also be wearing a face covering during communion. We will no longer be recording Track and Trace information, just remember though if you choose to sit close to someone you would be classed as a close contact in the unfortunate event that someone had the virus with associated self-isolation conditions applying.

We will be singing on Sundays, starting next Sunday led by our interim small choir, and taking diocesan advice we will be keeping the hymns short. It is important that we continue to remain sensible, and I am requesting that you continue to minimise social interactions before and after the services whilst inside. So please do not congregate inside the church after the service but rather go outside for a chat. There are many more things we need to consider which will reflect changes we make to our services in the future, so please be patient as we await further guidance and plan for a safe introduction. Let's just take one step at a time.

The PCC has agreed on a structure approach to be put in place to allow the eventual potential re-starting of church groups and organisations. This is quite a significant task as a number of checks will need to be undertaken for each group or organisation. Alan Gibson, as Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, will be leading this re-engagement activity and will be contacting all church groups and organisations in due course and formulating a re-start plan. Again, please be patient as we have quite a lot of groups and organisations to deal with.

Finally, thank you for all your ongoing support and co-operation in helping to get us to this stage and importantly keeping our congregation members safe.

The Revd Michael Print, Vicar, St George's Church, Chorley.