



The Parish of Chorley St. Laurence

Moving to Step 4 of the government roadmap –

The PCC response, 26th July 2021.

Purpose of the meeting:

To be clear about the C of E process and what the national church has produced ([Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) guidance | The Church of England](#))

To consider what our Diocese has said ([Important advice in relation to Coronavirus \(Covid-19\) | The Diocese of Blackburn \(anglican.org\)](#))

To consider what we feel appropriate for our church community, at this particular moment

To consider what we might want to review further down the line – **nothing is set in stone**. Nor is it a race of competition to replace everything at once or by set dates. Everything will be reviewed.

Bookings and attendance



At the current time we are advised to keep taking details for Test and Trace purposes. This has been done most efficiently through Eventbrite and **we will continue to use this booking system for services until the end of September**. This will also remove

confusion over a varying summer pattern of services as people will know what services aren't taking place. It will also help us to monitor if there are people who stop coming as more restrictions are lifted. We will continue to use a sign-in sheet for everyone on church premises which is also important for insurance and safeguarding purposes. We wish to discourage people popping into church for no reason when there are activities taking place; not least because each activity has a risk assessment and numbers of those involved are taken into account.

Cleaning

We are moving to just one deep clean each week and no cleaning between services. For those who may wish to use them, wipes will be available should people feel more comfortable wiping a seat before they sit on it.



Bell Tower

The tower will remain closed until at least the end of September. This will allow time for the Fabric Committee to look at some of the work needing to be done to the fabric and fixtures of the tower in line with health and safety requirements and improvements.



Lateral Flow Tests

For those undertaking work and duties at church, we encourage people to regularly test themselves at home (as many do already).



Hand sanitiser and entry/exit points

We will continue to provide hand sanitiser and will keep in place the separate entry and exit points for services and events.

Face coverings

We ask people (unless exempt) to wear masks inside the building **as they are moving around**. They may be removed when seated. The wearing of facemasks while singing hymns is optional.



Social distancing

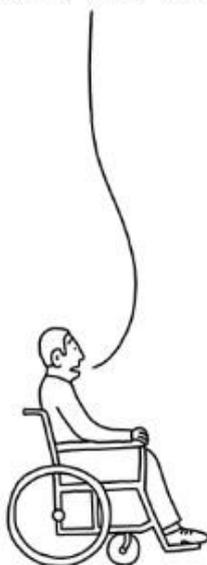
We will not specify a particular distance but ask everyone to keep a **respectful distance** from your neighbour in church. For those who feel anxious and do not want anyone sitting next to them, some cards will be available for you to place either side of you asking that people respect your need for space. People will no longer be shown to a seat and all of the pews will now be available.



THE ENDING OF RESTRICTIONS

WHAT IT MEANS FOR MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

FREEDOM FOR YOU
MEANS ISOLATION
FOR ME. I'LL NO
LONGER FEEL SAFE
GOING OUT NOW
THAT MOST PEOPLE'S
MASKS ARE OFF



I'M TERRIFIED
THAT MY VACCINE
WON'T PROTECT
ME FROM THE
NEW VARIANTS
THAT WILL
NOW DEVELOP



I'VE KEPT MYSELF
HIDDEN AWAY FOR
ALL THIS TIME FOR
THE SAKE OF OLDER
PEOPLE. NOW I'M
BEING ALLOWED TO
BE FREELY INFECTED,
WHEN NO ONE KNOWS
THE LONG-TERM
CONSEQUENCES



WE CAN
SING HYMNS
AGAIN!



Hymns and liturgical items

Hymns and songs for the congregation will return to the 5pm Saturday service and the 11am Sunday service. The 9am Sunday service will not include any congregational singing. Acolytes will be used at the 5pm Saturday service. The Sunday 11am Service will continue without altar servers except for festivals when a crucifer and thurifer may be used. Lesson readers at the 11am service will return on a regular basis.

Holy Communion will continue to be given in one kind only (the consecrated host) and there will be **no physical sharing of the sign of peace**.

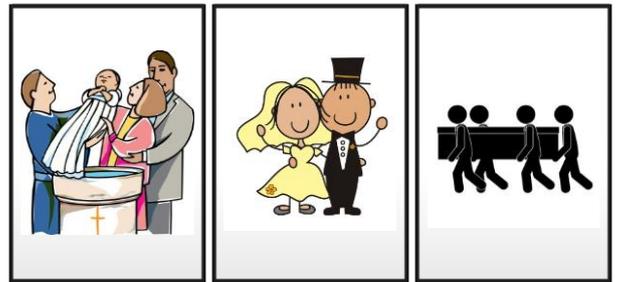


Refreshments and Fellowship

From September refreshments after the Saturday 5pm and Sunday 11am service will be served initially once a month. People may of course wish to retire to local coffee bars with their friends after services! For those who enjoy meeting with others for fellowship, a House Fellowship Group will begin in the Autumn.

The 'occasional offices' – baptisms, weddings and funerals

The seating capacity for each of these will be based on what feels most appropriate in each situation. Baptisms will continue to be offered on Saturdays at 12noon.



Pastoral visits to are homes, and care of the vulnerable.

Pastoral visits to hospitals, care homes and individual homes will be offered by clergy and lay ministers where requested and appropriate.

The PCC takes its duty of care to those who are vulnerable very seriously. For those who are in the CEV category (those who previously were required to shield) a risk assessment will be done for each individual undertaking an official role in the parish, based on needs and what is appropriate for their level of involvement. Clergy in the CEV category will undertake any required risk assessments through the Diocesan HR department.

Church and Room Hire

In order to maintain the current provision for making 'space' available, each request for bookings will be taken on its own merit and with advice from our Health and Safety team as to what is appropriate for each booking/event.

The PCC will review these processes at the end of September 2021, or earlier if required.