

Changes of our Covid precautions

December 2021



Stretton Parish

Philippians 2:3 'But in humility consider others as more important than yourselves'.

In response to the Government's and C of E's amended guidelines to combat the spread of the omicron variant, the Stretton Parish leadership has reviewed our current Covid precautions to ensure that we continue to protect the safety of everyone coming to our services and church events.

The Church of England has given incumbents the responsibility to make decisions suited to their own contexts and varied services, ministries and events. Stretton Parish is one Parish with three Churches and each building is different in worship and lay out, but the following now applies across the Parish.

- **The wearing of a face mask in church is now mandatory;**
Unless you are exempt, face masks must be worn when seated as well as when moving through our buildings. We will continue to wear masks when singing, though masks may be removed by those leading a service, giving a reading or intercessions. Choirs/musicians are permitted to remove them when singing/playing, whilst maintaining social distance.
- **Sanitiser will continue to be available on entry and exit**
We ask all who enter our buildings to sanitise their hands. Hymn books, service books etc may still be used, though care must be taken not to share items during a service. We will continue to clean touchpoints after and between services.
- **Separate Entry and Exit doors will be used for services with full congregations**
This will vary between churches and services as indicated by the Service Leader.
- **Ventilation will be ensured through open doors & windows**
We thank you for your understanding as the weather gets colder.
- **Sadly, communion will continue to be offered in one kind**
- **Please continue to respect each other by maintaining social distance**
and do not linger inside the building; it is safer to hold conversations outside.
- **We will no longer have informal refreshments before or after our services**

We are not required to keep details for NHS Test and Trace, so you do not have to book in for any of our services.

All are welcome to our services, though we understand that some are at a greater risk. So, out of consideration of each other, we ask that if you feel unwell you remain at home and invite you to watch our online service. Further, we ask in love that, where possible, you take a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) before attending our services, ministries or events.

Similarly, our Lifegroups and other church groups, are asked to adopt similar precautions, such as encouraging LFTs and not sharing food, being sensitive to the circumstances of those in the group.

I thank you all for your understanding and support of these measures which are put in place prayerfully and thoughtfully out of love for one another. As we continue to journey through this time of tribulation and worry, we have the sure knowledge that our Lord travels alongside us.

Rev'd Steve Johnson