

St Mary's Church, Ticehurst: Coronavirus Precautions. v2

Whilst the government has lifted specific legal requirements placed on organisations in respect of coronavirus we at St Mary's in Ticehurst still have a legal responsibility to manage all health and safety risks including those arising from coronavirus.

In light of the prevailing and now increasing incidence of coronavirus we have decided to maintain social distancing arrangements within the church, we encourage all to wear face covering to protect themselves and others and we will continue to use hand sanitiser on entry and egress from the church and before taking communion. The giving of communion will continue to be offered in one kind only, the bread and we are asking communicants to wear a face covering at this stage. We propose to keep the one-way system for the time being. During the service the congregation is now familiar with offering a sign of peace without touching one another. We recommend this continue.

Singing and musical performances are now allowed in church including congregational singing, choirs and worship groups and all may perform without legal restrictions. However singing can also increase the risk of catching or passing on coronavirus and we are taking additional precautions in St Mary's by keeping a distance of 1 m between pews. Congregation members who wish to sing will be invited to join in some hymns. **The choir** will continue to be reduced in number for the time being and socially spaced.

Bell ringing is now able to go ahead with face coverings, use of hand sanitiser and at a distance of 1 m apart is recommended.

Refreshments will be served after the 11am morning service outside St Mary's room.

All these precautions are recommended for the safe being of all who enter the church and will be reviewed on 20th August 2021.

The church will continue to be cleaned and sanitised before every service.

NHS Test and Trace

We continue to display the QR code to offer you the chance to check in. This is no longer a legal requirement but is a way of identifying if you have been exposed to coronavirus. Contact tracing, testing and self-isolation remains in place as key protection against the virus.