

PCC Response to the Lifting of Restrictions July 2021

St Aidan's PCC at its meeting on 20 July 2021 applied a cautious response to the Lifting of Restrictions of 19 July 2021.

Though Harehills presently has reasonably low reported Covid case numbers, the ward has an overall poor uptake of vaccinations. In order for the members of our congregation to continue to feel confident about attending Sunday Mass, Baptisms and Funerals, we have decided to keep/encourage certain restrictions, aware that members of our congregation and visitors hold varying opinions in this area. Please bear with us and bear with each other in love, patience and generosity.

Sunday Mass

Sunday Mass continues to be celebrated weekly at 10.00am.

From what time can I arrive for Sunday Mass?

The **church doors** will **open at 9.45am**.

Please **enter** the church through the **West Door from Roundhay Road**.

Can everybody come to Sunday Mass?

Yes, though we are still implementing a certain restriction on numbers (80 in the congregation plus clergy, servers and organist/cantors/choir)

What are the seating arrangements?

Unrestricted area: the first three rows on the north side (pulpit side) of the nave are for people who wish to sit together with others without wearing face masks/coverings.

The rest of the nave will still be set out as before to enable people to sit socially distanced **and** wearing face masks/coverings.

Do I need to book a place?

If you wish to sit in the restricted area (socially distanced and wearing face masks/coverings) on a reserved seat, please continue to book your place as before.

You do not have to book a place if you wish to sit in the unrestricted area.

How do I book?

There are three ways:

1. online via the website: www.staidan-leeds.org.uk
2. emailing Mrs Ros Lehany on churchservicebookings@staidan-leeds.org.uk
3. texting or leaving a message on the church service booking phone: 07720 743108

At the time of booking, please let us know **how many people are in your booking** (individual, couple or bubble/family).

What if I feel unwell on Sunday morning?

Please do not come to church if you feel unwell, especially if you experience any COVID19 related symptoms, like a head ache, temperature, runny nose, loss of sense of taste or smell, cough or other cold and flue related symptoms.

Where do I enter into the church?

We continue to operate a **One Way system** through church.

Please enter the church through the **West Door on Roundhay Road**, and **leave** the church through the **South Door onto Elford Place West**.

What if I need level access?

Please inform us about your **accessibility needs** at the time of booking and we will make personal arrangements for you.

What do I need to bring?

Please continue to bring along the following:

1. **Personal items** like tissues and personal hand sanitisers, a water bottle if you might require something to drink.
2. A **face mask/covering** (unless you are exempt or wish to sit in the unrestricted area)

Do I need to wear a face mask/face covering?

Government now has dropped the legal requirement for face masks/coverings to be worn in places of worship. We would ask you please to continue wearing a face mask/covering throughout the service except for when you are reading the lesson, preaching or leading intercessions.

The wearing of face masks/coverings has been proven to reduce the aerosol/droplet transmission of Covid considerably. Wearing a face mask/covering benefits your neighbour more than yourself, but if most/all wear face masks/coverings we best look after each other in love. Please, make every effort of wearing a face mask/covering if you can.

What will happen when I arrive?

As you enter, **please use the hand sanitisers provided** at the entrance.

Please pick up a copy of the weekly sheet from the side (and take it home with you after the service).

Please pick up a copy of the relevant Mass booklet from the side. You may take this home and bring it back again the week after.

Please pick up a copy of the hymnal if you wish to sing or read along with the words of the hymns. At the end of the service, please leave your hymnal behind as you exit the church via the south door.

Though this is not a legal requirement anymore, we encourage you to leave us your **correct contact details** in case we have to contact you after the service. You can also 'check into the venue' using the Track and Trace app and the provided QR code for our venue.

Will there be music?

Yes, there will be organ music.

Will we be singing?

Yes, **singing is permitted again in the service**. Please would you wear face masks/coverings when you are singing.

We continue to be grateful to have the occasional services of a Cantor. The choir is hoping to return to their duties from September and as choir members feel safe to do so.

Will we be sharing the Peace.

We continue to share the Peace in a non-physical way.

What about Holy Communion?

Mass will be celebrated and **you will be able to receive Holy Communion**. The priest will follow a strict hygiene protocol, including wearing a face covering for the administration.

You will be invited to come forward to receive Holy Communion after the cantors/choir, altar party and servers have received Holy Communion.

As you come forward, please come **up the centre aisle and return to your seats via the side aisles**. Please respect people's space and **observe physical distancing**.

You can **remove your face mask/covering for receiving Holy Communion**.

Please **use the hand sanitiser** provided before receiving Holy Communion.

You will receive **Holy Communion in one kind (the consecrated bread only)**.

You will receive **Holy Communion on the hand** (not on the tongue).

The priest will say 'The Body of Christ' to you at the time of administration of Holy Communion.

Please **wear your face mask/covering as you return to your seat** and for the remainder of the service.

Can I light a candle?

Yes, you can **light a candle at the Redeemer Statue** in the north aisle. Please light the candle **after the service has finished**. Please **observe physical distancing** at the candle stand.

Please be patient with each other.

Will somebody pray with me if I have a personal intention?

Yes, clergy will be available to pray with you after the Mass. They will not be able to lay on hands and will observe a physical distance from you, but they will pray with and for you and for your intentions.

Can I be anointed?

Yes, on request you can receive the ministry of anointing.

What about Holy Water stoups?

The **Holy Water stoups have to remain empty** for the time being. This should not discourage you from marking yourself with the sign of the cross on entering and exiting the building. If you wish to take blessed Holy Water home with you, please bring a filled container with you to church. We will pray with you and bless the water for your use.

What about toilets?

The **accessible toilet in the rotunda** is available for your use. Please maintain good personal hygiene and wash your hands. The toilets in the church hall are not available.

Will there be refreshments?

No, **there will be no refreshments** before, during or after the service.

Will there be food parcels?

No, **there will be no food parcels on Sundays.** The weekly FoodShare has moved to Saturdays 10.30am-12noon. You are very welcome to collect a food parcel any Saturday from the St Aidan's Community Hall.

Baptisms

Baptisms are available after the Sunday Mass (usually scheduled for 12noon), with a restriction on numbers to 80, a degree of social distancing and a strong encouragement of wearing face masks. To arrange a baptism, please contact Carolynne Pepper on carolynnepepper8@gmail.com; 07947 173876.

Funerals

Funerals are available during the week (usually Mondays or Fridays). These, too, have a restriction to 80 mourners, a degree of social distancing and a strong encouragement of wearing face masks. To arrange a funeral, please contact one of the local funeral directors who will make arrangements with the church on your behalf.