



The doors will be open!

Re-opening the building – April 2021

We are delighted to welcome you back to worship in the Church building from April 11th for our 9am communion services. We have taken this decision following Government and Church of England advice and guidance and in consultation with the wardens and PCC. To continue to keep everyone as safe as possible, we have to take a number of precautions in line with our risk assessments.

The roll out of Covid vaccine in our local community has been a significant factor in reducing the prevalence of the virus and giving people confidence to go out once again – and has been an incredible effort. I have received my jab and would strongly encourage everyone to take up their offer when it comes. We are of course conscious that some may be unable or choose not to have the vaccine. If you have any concerns or questions about the medical or ethical issues surrounding the vaccine, please do be in touch as there are a number of helpful resources I'd be happy to point you to. However, even in light of the vaccination roll-out, we are required to maintain certain restrictions and limitations in how we interact at Church.

Much of the following guidance will be familiar to you, especially if you have already been attending St Andrew's since the pandemic began, however I would encourage you to read through the following pages thoroughly as some details may have changed. We are so excited to be able to gather once again back in the building, and do hope you will join us again.

James

St Andrew's Church, Sneyd Green
www.standrewssneydgreen.com
www.facebook.com/StAndrewsSG

Keeping our services COVID safe

For everyone's safety, it is vital that these guidelines are followed:

- Please *do not attend* if you currently have any symptoms of coronavirus (high temperature, a new continuous cough, or changes to your smell or taste). If you have any of these symptoms you must immediately book a test to check if you have Coronavirus and self-isolate.
- We recognise that there are some in our church community who are at particular risk and especially vulnerable. In considering attending please seek relevant government and medical advice, as well as the wisdom of family and friends, even if you have had the first or both doses of the vaccine.

What will coming to Church look like?

ARRIVING:

Please do not come too early before the service starts, you will be asked to wait outside until just before 9am. Please maintain social distancing whilst waiting outside and refrain from gathering in groups. There will be some chairs available for those unable to stand for long periods of time. Please be prepared for adverse weather conditions.

ENTRY:

As you enter Church, please sanitise your hands and ensure you have a mask on. There is a box of masks available by the door. James is exempt from wearing a mask when leading the service which will enable those who need to lipread the ability to do so – he will also have a microphone. Sadly, we are not able to sing in Church currently.

We will then ask your name and check your contact details. If we already have them, you will not need to give your contact details again.

COLLECTION:

There is an opportunity to give as you enter the church building using via the collection plate by the door. If you would prefer to give online, please go to our website www.standrewssneydgreen.com/giving or contact us.

ONE-WAY SYSTEM:

There is a one-way system in operation throughout the building. We are using the main door to enter and moving to the front of the building to exit through the side door via the Little Seedlings room. The only exceptions will be the service team each week. There will be clear signage and we will make sure you know where to go.

SEATING:

Please follow the direction to your seat, we will fill up from the front. At all times please maintain two metres social distance from anyone who is not in your household. The seats are in groups of three however if your household is more than that, we will be able to

accommodate you sitting together if you contact us in advance. We ask that you remain in your seat during the service, unless instructed otherwise by the service team. We currently have a capacity of approximately 24 households of three people. If we are full, we will sadly have to turn you away.

BOOKS AND BIBLES:

Each row will have service books available and there are Bibles in the back of the seats as usual. Please return each book to the seat/pocket after use. The building will be quarantined for a minimum of 48 hours after each service.

COMMUNION:

Each week we will have communion available however, in accordance with Church of England guidelines, only wafers will be distributed to the congregation. James will come to your seat to administer communion. You are welcome to stand, kneel or remain seated. For communion, James will wear a mask and you are permitted to remove yours. He will also sanitise his hands before and after the distribution.

TOILETS:

The toilets in Church are available, preferably before or after the service. If you need to use the toilet then please speak to a member of the Team who will direct you – following the one-way system. If you feel unwell at any point during worship, please advise a member of the team, leave the building as quickly as possible and seek medical advice.

LEAVING:

At the end of the service we will guide people as to how best to leave using the side-door. Each person/household will be asked to sanitise their hands again on leaving.

If you have any questions about the guidance and restrictions, please do be in touch or ask somebody when you come along – we want to make our services as open and accessible as possible.

