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Dear friends,

I hope you continue to be safe and well. I know that you are eager to find out what the easing of legal restrictions from the 19th July 2021 means for our public worship together. I am delighted to be able to share some more details with you, as well as am grateful for your patience as we have worked through the Church of England guidance. We have sought to balance the desire to enjoy a full life together as well as continuing to be a safe place for the clinically vulnerable and be hospitable to those who are anxious. I firmly believe that we have found a good balance for the time being. These protocols will remain under constant review and may change as the local situation evolves. Similarly, they may vary from one service or event to another, because they will present different levels of risk.

What follows will be in place for all our regular services. Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Much is similar to what has been in place, so if you prefer, just turn up to a service with a face covering, and our stewards will guide you through any changes. If you are a person who likes detail, then read on!

- Upon arrival, sanitize your hands at the station, where you can also sign in for Track and Trace purposes.
- We will have clearly marked zones in church set aside for strict social distancing. In these areas every other pew will be blocked off as before. Available pews will be marked by a green check.
- In areas that are not marked for strict social distancing, all pews will be available to sit in, but we continue to request everyone to be sensible. There is no need to cosy up next to people for no reason. Nobody did that before the pandemic anyway!
- You may also collect a sign to place next to you requesting that people leave space in between you.
- **We will resume congregational singing**, but you will be required to wear a face covering for this activity (unless medically exempt).
- We will continue to wear face covering at any time that we are not seated in a pew. You are welcome to remove it while seated during the service.
- We are not relaxing any of our cleaning and hygiene regimes in church.
- The congregation will continue to only receive Communion in one kind (bread only), with the celebrant receiving in both kinds (bread and wine).
- The congregation will come forward to receive communion with their face covering and keeping space with others. A steward will guide you through the process and offer you hand sanitizer as you approach the administrator.
- The sacrament will be brought to those seated in the social distancing zones, just as before.
- The clergy will administer communion with face coverings on and adhering to the same hygiene practices as we have throughout the pandemic.
- We will continue to have tea and coffee outside, weather permitting.

I am very much looking forward to this next phase of our life where we are able to finally join our voices together in song. I also thank you in advance for your cooperation and graciousness to your neighbours in church as we seek to be a hospitable place for all people. Please be assured of my prayers for you at this time.

With every blessing,
Fr. Reid