

Covid-19 Guidance for St Nicholas' Church, Dormston

The Sub Committee for St Nicholas Church, Dormston has assessed the risks associated in reopening St Nicholas' and its outdoor grounds during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The following factors have been significant in agreeing the safest possible courses of action.

St Nicholas Church has a limited number of regular worshippers most of whom are PCC members. There are no churchwardens. There are a number of additional volunteers who undertake a variety of tasks to help with church running in normal times. However, the majority of the volunteers and PCC members of St Nicholas' are in the vulnerable category

There are no volunteers/PCC members safely able to staff, steward and clean the building for funerals/services. Unsupervised access for any purpose including private prayer is not possible in a covid-safe way.

The Subcommittee recognises that even with vaccination and greater access to testing, vigilance will be essential to avoid the spread of infection.

The church will only be able to remain open for public access for specific purposes and services if all users comply with the measures put in place.

The following measures have been put in place in order to protect church users, volunteers, ministers and their associated families. Please familiarise yourself with these guidelines before entering the church and its grounds.

General Guidance

- Certain groups of people may be at increased risk of severe disease from COVID-19. Government advice is that while shielding is no longer necessary, it is important for clinically extremely vulnerable individuals to continue to keep their number of social interactions low and to reduce the amount of time spent in settings where maintaining social distancing might be difficult.
- While those at extra risk and the 'clinically extremely vulnerable' are advised of the risks of attending public worship, a decision to do so is theirs alone.
- We appreciate everyone's continued cooperation during this difficult time to enable us to take the necessary and sensible measures to allow us to open the church and its grounds safely for the benefit of our local community.
- If you or anyone you live with shows any symptom of Coronavirus, you must not enter St Nicholas' building. For advice relating to symptoms, testing and stay at home guidance please visit <https://www.gov.uk/Coronavirus>.
- Please refer to the government guidance on self-isolation/test and trace if a case of Covid-19 is suspected in your household.
- If you or anyone in your household has tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 10 days and has entered the church building or grounds during this period, please contact: Rev'd Bruce Rienstra 01386 792222 or Maria Lazenbury (Benefice Administrator) 01386 793747, Mobile 07498 550592, admin@cofe-inkberrow.org.uk.
- Only activities currently permitted by the Government are permitted to take place in the church and its grounds.
- Only those who have booked their visit in advance may enter the church.
- Anybody needing to enter the church for any purpose whatsoever must contact the Site Usage Coordinator, Sandra Wood beforehand. This is to ensure that 48 hours elapses between entries.

- The site usage coordinator will be monitoring visits by contractors/construction workers, recording sessions, preparation for funerals and services. Those failing to book well ahead of their visit may find entry is refused because of other appointments within the 48-hour window.
- A maximum of 8 people will be allowed inside the church at any one time i.e. 6 congregation, one clergy and one organist. All users of the church building should follow guidelines on social distancing and adhere to the 2 metre rule or 1 metre with risk mitigation (where 2 metres is not viable).
- For a funeral, an additional 24 mourners are allowed to attend in the church grounds. This in addition to clergy and funeral directors staff team. All worshippers/mourners in the grounds should follow guidelines on social distancing and adhere to the 2 metre rule or 1 metre with risk mitigation (where 2 metres is not viable). Funeral Directors will be responsible for ensuring compliance.
- For an outdoor service other than a funeral no more than 30 people should be on site. These should follow guidelines on social distancing and adhere to the 2 metre rule or 1 metre with risk mitigation (where 2 metres is not viable).
- Face coverings must be worn when entering the church building unless you have a face covering exemption because of your age, health, or another condition. They may only be removed if permitted to do so in accordance with government guidelines for the proposed activity being undertaken.
- Please follow good hygiene practices including sanitising hands on entering and exiting the building and avoiding touching any surface unnecessarily. N.B. If you are the responsible adult for an individual or child, you are responsible for ensuring they too follow the appropriate hygiene practices.
- All used wipes, gloves, masks etc. should be removed from the site by the user and disposed of safely at home.
- The door should be left open for ventilation whilst the church is in use. Please close securely before leaving.
- The usual cleaning team of volunteers is not operational. The Site Usage Coordinator will check that masonry and bat debris has been cleared. Users are responsible for ensuring that any contact surfaces are wiped down after use. Appropriate antibacterial cleaning products are available to use.

CHECK LIST FOR USERS

Ministers responsible for services:

- Consult the site usage coordinator re bookings well in advance. This is particularly important if others such as sound engineers require access before a funeral.
- Ensure visiting ministers/preachers have read the current version of this document well beforehand.
- Be self-sufficient. Bring everything you need and set it up and clear it away.
- Assume that there will not be a steward/Go To/verger available.
- Keep the service short.
- Remind the congregation about singing.
- Dismiss the congregation with a reminder to leave the site promptly avoiding mingling of household/bubbles.
- Issue Funeral Directors with a current version of the St Nicholas Risk Assessment for funerals as soon as the date is booked.
- Obtain a risk assessment specific to the funeral from the funeral director and circulate to the PCC subcommittee at least 48 hours before access is required.

Attending a service outside in the churchyard. What you need to do:

- Wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions.
- Bring your own seat or rug.
- Be careful to keep your distance from others from arrival in the car park to the homeward journey.
- It is not compulsory to wear face coverings outside a place of worship.
- Sanitise your hands before collecting a service booklet.
- Scan the QR code displayed if you have a smart phone or complete a track and trace form using your own pen or consent to your name and contact number being held on an attendance list for 3 weeks.
- Station yourself at least two metres away from others.
- Touch as little as possible.
- Congregational singing is permitted if people remain distanced.
- Take any rubbish - used gloves, tissues, masks etc. home with you and dispose of safely.
- Leave promptly when dismissed by the minister. Avoid mingling with others. Go straight home.

Attending a service in the church. What you need to do:

- Be careful to keep your distance from others from arrival in the car park to the homeward journey.
- Wear a mask inside (unless exempt).
- Sanitise your hands before entry.
- Scan the QR code if you have a smart phone or complete a track and trace form using your own pen or consent to your name and contact number being held on an attendance list for 3 weeks.
- Sit where indicated.
- Touch as little as possible.
- No congregational singing.
- Take any rubbish - used gloves, tissues, masks etc. home with you and dispose of safely.
- Leave promptly when dismissed by the minister. Avoid mingling with others. Go straight home.

Attending St Nicholas' for recording purposes:

- Consult the site usage coordinator re bookings well in advance. 48 hours to be kept between bookings of any sort.
- Team members to maintain social distancing whilst on site.
- Door to be left open during recording session.
- Wear a mask inside (unless exempt).
- Touch as little as possible.
- Wipe down high contact surfaces using sanitiser products provided.
- Take any rubbish - (used gloves, tissues, masks etc.) home with you and dispose of safely.
- Please close the church securely before leaving.