

What to Expect When You Come to St Bert's!

First things first! Welcome for the first time, or welcome back to St Bert's if you are returning. As we continue to face the challenges of living amidst the Covid-19 pandemic we are thankful that we are able to re-open the building to gather for a weekly time of prayer, worship, reflection and Holy Communion together. We will be following government guidelines as we go, but in spite of the restrictions that brings, we trust that this will provide a safe space for us to be physically present with one another and meet with God, who is love, believing he welcomes us as we are and wishes to meet with, comfort and transform us.

Given the peculiar nature of the times in which we find ourselves, what follows is a guide to what to expect when you come to a service at St Bert's. Although reading guidance notes is not the most exciting thing in the world, please do read it to the end to make sure you are thoroughly aware of what to expect and how best to engage with this service.

Booking in: Given the reduced number of seats in the church due to 2m social distancing, and thus the need to know and control how many people will be attending church, we have opted to use a booking in system. This means that if you wish to attend church on any given Sunday you will need to book a seat in advance. The options for booking in are a single bubble for someone on their own, a two bubble, or a four bubble. These are booked on a first come first served basis and we ask that you **please follow government guidance on who you can bubble with!** Booking can be done by visiting <https://www.stbertschurch.org.uk/calendar/>, alternatively, you can phone the church administrator on 01928 751151 to book in. Once you have booked in, we will retain your information for track and trace and you will be sent a confirmation email of your booking. You can now turn up to church on the booked date and take your seat!

Entry to the building: As you approach the front door you will need to queue, where necessary, (maintaining 2m social distance), prior to being met in the foyer by a sidesperson. Entering the foyer, you will be asked to sanitise your hands with the hand gel provided and asked what seats you have booked. You will then be directed to suitable, available seating.

During the Service: Everything you need in terms of notices, readings, prayers etc. will be on the screen or verbally communicated by the service leader. Unless use of the toilet facilities is required or there is an emergency, you will need to remain in your seat or standing in front of your seat throughout the service. With that in mind, it is important to stress that although St Bert's continues to aim to be a family friendly church that considers all to be made in the image of God and equal before God regardless of age, ethnicity or ability, it is important for the sake of everyone's safety and welfare that whoever attends the service must be able to remain at their seat throughout the whole service. This is not the way we would want it to be, but it is needed under the current circumstances. In addition, there will be no room in the church for pushchairs either. We do apologise for any inconvenience this will cause. We are continuing to work on provision for children and families so please keep checking the website and Facebook page for further details.

Distribution of Holy Communion: Given the need to keep movement to a minimum in the service, Holy Communion will be distributed at the end of the service as you are leaving the building (see below) and will only be given in the form of a wafer. If you cannot or do not wish to receive a wafer you may ask for a blessing or simply leave. The priest leading the service will take a wafer and will also consume the wine on behalf of the congregation, during the service.

Exiting the Building: Once the service has finished, the service leader will walk to the middle one of the three fire doors, at the back of church with the remaining wafers. You will then leave the building as directed, via that fire door – sanitising your hands with the sanitiser provided as you go – following the path round the edge of the church, through the gate, and back to the car park.

Music: Currently singing is still not allowed due to the potential risk of spread of COVID. However, it is possible to play either recorded music or live music at suitable points in the service or before and after the service, which will be done at the discretion of the service leader.

Face Masks: These are a legal requirement for all, apart from those designated as exempt in the government guidance. For the safety and welfare of everyone, please adhere to this law! Facemasks may temporarily be removed for the consumption of Holy Communion.

Online Services: In order to continue to give access to church services for those who can't attend due to shielding etc. or those who can't attend due to the limited space in the church at one time, the virtual service will continue to take place weekly on Facebook Live. **However, this will move to the new time of 10.30am.**