



The Parish Church of St. Peter, Chorley

Vicar: Revd. Peter H Smith, BA (Hons)

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Re-opening of St Peter's Parish Church for Public Worship.

Re-opening of our church for public worship will inevitably be a time of mixed emotions for you all. For some it will be of joy- being able to come to church and meet for worship, sadness for the loss of some of our members, and uncertainty regarding what the future 'new normal' may be.

All these mixed emotions are understandable and considering this, in accordance with all Government and associated legislation, the Church of England and Diocese of Blackburn we have drawn up this guidance which will come into effect on the 4th July 2020. Our guidance sets out how we can worship in church in a manner that is COVID-19 secure as much as is possible taking into account the constraints of the church building.

The Wardens and I in collaboration with the PCC have agreed this guidance to help you to make the decision if returning to church at this present time is right for you. The re-opening of churches for public worship should not make you feel obliged to attend. I have worked with the Wardens to ensure your safety is always of paramount importance, whilst you are in the church building. This includes social distancing, hand hygiene and cleaning of the church following all services in order to minimise the risk of exposure to infection.

The inside of the church building has been taped off and designated pews for worshippers have been identified, mainly either side of the central aisle of the church. **Please note** that you may **not** be able to sit where you would normally choose to do so as some areas of the building will not be accessible to the public.

Attached to this letter is a copy of the guidelines to follow when attending public worship. Please read them carefully as it is important to yourself and that of others they are followed at all times whilst attending worship services, as this will ensure you safety and that of others is maintained throughout the service.

Please be aware that when necessary our guidelines may change to comply with Government/ legislation requirements. As and when this occurs you will be informed of the changes and revised guidelines issued.

I ask that you are understanding and tolerant at this time of unprecedented change as we once again come together to worship our Lord and our God in our church.

Every blessing,

Peter Smith, Vicar

July 2020.

Procedures and Guidelines

Facilities: Car Parking, Children's Corner, Toilets.

- Parking is as usual, but please try to leave at least one space between cars if possible.
- Toilets will be available, in the Hall (for disabled only) and in church but please try to avoid having to use them if you can.
- The Children's Corner will **not** be open, children **must** stay with their family group.

On arrival at church, please use the normal entrance in the North Porch.

- Please keep two metres apart from the person in front of you and do not congregate at the entrance or back of church.
- You will see a table with hand sanitiser / gel on, you **MUST** gel your hands before touching anything else or moving further into the church.

Tracking & Tracing

- We are required to maintain a list of everyone who comes to services, plus either a phone number or address.
- You will be asked for that information when you arrive.
- If someone does become infected with the virus, people who were at that service can be traced and asked to self-isolate.
- The list will be kept secure and destroyed after 21 days in line with GDPR.

Music & Singing

- Peter, our organist, will play suitable music before the service, during the distribution of communion and at the end of the service.
- There will not be singing of hymns. Parts of the service which are normally sung will now be said.

Service books and Hymn books

- At the back of church, please collect a service booklet for yourself and make your way immediately to a pew. (Do not congregate at the back please, as others may be trying to enter church.)
- This booklet becomes your possession, keep it with you throughout the service and at the end, please **TAKE IT AWAY** with you.
- Do not return them to the back of church or leave them in your pew.
- When you come to worship again, please bring that booklet with you for reuse. This measure will help us all in preventing transmission of the virus by touch / contact.

Seating and Face Masks

- We expect to use only the main nave area of the church adjacent to the centre aisle, and then expand to other areas later if necessary.
- Face Masks are not compulsory, but if you do find yourself on a pew or closer than 2 metres to someone who is **not** a family member, it is advisable in that instance to wear a face mask.
- You are responsible for bringing your own face masks and advise that you use them when and where appropriate.

Sunday School/ Parade

- Sunday school / Parade: unfortunately, at this time we are unable to hold any Sunday School lessons and there won't be any Parade Services until further notice

Receiving Communion

- **All** Holy Communion services will be held in the main church, not the Chapel, due to social distancing.
- During the Eucharistic prayer, the wafers of bread will be sealed in the ciborium on the altar.
- The vicar will sanitise his hands immediately before distributing bread to the congregation.
- He will come down and stand near the choir pews and distribute bread only to those who wish to take it.
- There will not be an altar rail, as people will need to remain standing as they receive the bread.
- Please sanitise your hands at the Credence table near the choir pews before receiving.
- **Note:** no words will be said by the minister as he /she gives the bread.
- Please present your hands at arm's length. No wine will be offered.
- Please keep two metres apart from the person in front of you.
- Please follow any instructions from the Wardens regarding approaching for communion and returning to your seat.

Sharing the Peace, Offertory & Collection

- There will **not** be a sharing of the Peace except between members of the same household.
- There will **not** be an offertory procession of the Bread & Wine.
- There will **not** be any Collection Plates passed round. (Please put your offering in the plates at the back of church either on your way in or out of church.)

After the service concludes

- After the blessing and dismissal, the vicar will pass down the centre aisle and wait outside the usual North Door to say farewells.
- Please keep two metres away from other worshippers as you leave.
- Allow all worshippers at the back of the church to leave first. Those at the front will leave last.
- Sanitise your hands again as you leave the building from the hand gel provided near the exit.
- Refrain from shaking hands with the vicar or anyone else.
- Please do not congregate near the door as other people may be trying to leave church.
- Do not try to re-enter church; if you have left something behind, ask the Warden or volunteer to assist you.
- If you do go to the Hall for refreshments, please keep 2 metres apart from anyone else.
(Refreshments available from Week Commencing 20th July 2020)

REMEMBER TO TAKE ANY BOOKS WITH YOU - DO NOT LEAVE ANYTHING ON YOUR SEAT.

Morning Prayer – Thursdays 9:00am

- Morning Prayer shall commence from 16th July 2020, Thursday mornings at 9:00am in the All Souls' Chapel, as we can safely remain socially distanced.
- If social distancing is compromised, we will move into the main body of the church.