Sunday Worship at St Andrew's & St Cuthman's: Questions and Answers

Rates of the pandemic are increasing locally. Anyone showing even mild symptoms of Covid-19 (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of, or change in, their sense of taste or smell) should stay at home and seek advice from the NHS at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or by ringing 111.

Q Must I wear a face covering to church?

A Yes, it is still a legal obligation to wear face coverings in places of worship. Children under 11 and some adults people are exempt. We have a number of people in our congregation who fall in to this category. If you are one please explain to the stewards.

Q How long is today's service?

A Today's service is likely to last around 45-50 minutes, not including the organ voluntary.

Q Why can't we sing?

A We now realise that Covid 19 is spread through droplets and aerosols which is increased by singing or loud voices. Singing is not allowed under current restrictions but we are able to hum (with closed lips), and many people find this an uplifting way of joining with musical worship.

Q What about music?

A Our choir and music group are able to lead worship, but are subject to a number of rules We thank them for all the work they are doing in this. We also use recorded music on occasion. We realise this isn't the same experience as we are used to – but encourage you to meet God where we are

Q How will we receive Holy Communion?

A Communion will be administered in the form of the bread only (known as 'in one kind'). It has long been the teaching of the church that to receive this way is 'complete communion'. We have recently received guidance on how we might enable taking the wine as well and will be looking at this for the future. Anyone who feels that they should not receive the host for health reasons is assured that they are partakers by faith of the body and blood of Christ and of the benefits that He conveys to us by them.

Q Can I greet my friends after the service?

A Government guidance makes clear that anyone attending any venue, including a place of worship, does so either as an individual or household / bubble, and should not interact with other people. Generally, while we are in Tier 2 we are not able to meet people outside our households / bubbles inside, and outside must stick to the 'Rule of 6'. We ask that you leave church premises taking care to to avoid any crowded areas forming

Q What about singing outside?

A Worship and singing aloud outside are allowed so long as we are socially distanced. The weather is not conducive to this at this time of year, but we are exploring with Churches Together whether we might be to do some carol singing in the town.

Q Is there are news sheet?

A For the time being we are distributing the Sunday bulletin electronically, and fortnightly by post to those without email. To join the mailing list please speak to a steward or write to:

office@steyningparishchurch.org