

Covid-19 guidance

As you will all be aware, as of Monday 19th July, the government has lifted all legal requirements of the Covid-19 lockdown. We are no longer required by law to wear a face-mask indoors, nor to remain socially distanced from people outside our household group, nor to hand-sanitise or check in to venues for track and trace.

We are, instead, asked to use our own judgement to decide what seems sensible given that the pandemic is clearly far from over. That would be fine if people's judgement didn't vary enormously from the cautious and risk-averse to the cavalier and carefree.

So, what should we do for Sunday services in St Michael's? Firstly, it should be emphasised that the legal constraints have been removed. We do not have to wear a face-mask, nor to leave an empty seat between ourselves and our neighbour, nor to sign in.

However, we should all be considerate and respectful of other people's fears and concerns. The face-mask is not primarily intended to protect you, the wearer; it is to protect everybody else from you. So please keep it on if that feels right to you. There is plenty of space in this building so feel free to move away from others if you need more space. If people move away from you, don't feel offended – others are just being cautious.

We are taking some additional steps to increase ventilation by leaving more doors open and we would encourage people who do wish to wear a face-mask to sit behind or away from those who don't. We don't want anybody to feel uncomfortable, stressed or threatened. We all need to respect the concerns of people around us.