



Local Guidance reducing risk of Covid 19 transmission in church services and gatherings. 28th April 2022

Background:

The government lifted all Covid-19 legal restrictions from March 2022. The Church of England provides guidance, available here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance#na> However, the “incumbent” is required to assess local risk and put in place the best guidance for communal worship. Local covid infections continue (and other seasonal infections) and local hospitals are under pressure. Scientists and the Church of England continue to advise caution.

Each Parish has carried out / updated risk assessments. This is temporary additional guidance and depend on the changing nature of the pandemic / future guidance from Church and Government.

Mask-wearing / social distancing are now optional. Good **hand hygiene is advised**. As Christians we remember the need to protect others as much as ourselves – and take personal responsibility for this. Please think of others before entering our buildings with Covid / Flu symptoms.

Sanitising:

We ask everyone to sanitise their hands on entry and before receiving Holy Communion.

The Peace:

We continue to “share the peace” but discourage hand-shaking.

Surfaces / cleaning:

We continue to maintain a good level of general cleaning. Hand hygiene helps reduce viral spread.

Refreshments:

When serving refreshments, we will adhere to excellent hygiene measures.

Holy Communion:

Clergy (no longer required to wear masks) will keep excellent hand hygiene and cover the bread & wine during the service until distributed to the congregation.

In the event of the minister not able to lead a service:

There’s an “emergency” service-of-the-word booklet should the Minister be unable to lead a service at short notice. The church warden, or another person, should then lead the service.

Review date: 15th July 2022

Mary Styles, Incumbent, South Quantock Benefice. 28th April 2022

Distribution: PCC’s, worship leaders & those leading activities in church buildings, & displayed publicly on church notice-boards.