

**Opening St Swithin’s Church**

**for Evening Services**

**I was glad when they said unto me,**

**“let us go to the house of the Lord.”**

***Psalm 122:1***

We are delighted that we are now able to open our doors and welcome you in to our church building for public gathered services of worship. Extensive preparations, following Government, Church of England and Diocesan guidelines, have been made to ensure that everyone who comes into the building is welcome and safe. We want to build trust and confidence that we can gather together and worship safely in these changed circumstances. And so, we ask you, **please read** through the following notes carefully as you prepare to join with us once again to gather and worship God together.

* **Please inform the Church office** ([office@stswithinswalcot.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithinswalcot.org.uk) OR 01225 789168) if you intend to join us for a specific service
* We will **keep a record of attendance** in order to assist NHS test and trace procedures. Names and mobile numbers will be stored for 21 days.
* Entry will be via the main **front door** with exit via the side fire door onto the pavement next to Church house.
* Please use the available **hand sanitiser** on your way into the building. Sanitiser will also be available on your way to and from the front of church for those reeving communion.
* Observe **physical distancing** at all times out of respect for others.
* **Wearing of face coverings** is now mandatory inside church buildings.
* Bring your own **bible** with you if you would like to use one (church bibles will not be available)
* Bring your own **water bottle** for drinking (access to the kitchen will not be possible)
* **Toilets** will be available with detailed guidance on access/cleaning etc. (Please get in touch with Janet if it would be helpful to have more information before attending [janet@stswithinswalcot.org.uk](mailto:janet@stswithinswalcot.org.uk) OR 01225 789168)
* The chairs have been set up to observe safe physical distancing. **Please don’t move chairs.**
* **Everyone is welcome** in our church. However, there are certain groups of people who are more vulnerable and we ask you to please consider guidance as issued by the government before you decide whether to come into the church building.
* **Please respect** those appointed to assist the smooth running of the service and comply with any requests as reasonably required.
* Detailed guidance will be given for the **administration of Communion** during the service. In line with official guidance, bread only will be offered and you will be invited to come to the front of church to receive. You are, of course, welcome to the service whether or not you choose to receive the bread. The leaders will not be masked during the service itself, but care will be taken over the preparation and handling of communion items and no words will be spoken over the bread at distribution.
* At the end of the service, please **leave the building responsibly**, without causing obstructions in aisles or doorways. And please refrain from gathering either inside or outside the building to socialise.
* If you or anyone in your household is displaying any **symptoms of Covid 19** you should not visit the church building. If in the 7 days following your visit you begin to show any symptoms **please inform the Church Office 01225 789168**
* We hope and pray that as we begin to return to our church building to gather for worship these will be special times of fellowship and worship, despite the obvious restrictions and changes from what we have known before. Please continue to pray for those still unable to join us for whatever reason and we look forward to sharing different styles of worship and gatherings over the coming weeks and months.

