

Worship at St Mary's, Newick, During COVID19

What To Expect!

Before you arrive

We ask you to consider your own risk of attending an indoor gathering. While we will be taking a number of steps to keep you safe, we cannot make this risk-free. You might want to look at the NHS guidance on whether you are at higher risk of coronavirus and be guided by their advice: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/people-at-higher-risk/whos-at-higher-risk-fromcoronavirus/>

We ask you NOT to attend the service if you have: A new cough : A temperature : Lost your sense of smell or taste

You may want to bring your own hand sanitiser, although some will be available

You are welcome to wear a mask/face covering. Please remember that face coverings protect others from your germs – they are not very good at protecting you from other people's germs. They are not a replacement for good social distancing, hand hygiene, and self-isolating if you have symptoms when you arrive

When you arrive, we will take some contact details. These will be kept for 3 weeks after the service and given to Track and Trace if someone from the service later tests positive for coronavirus. They won't be used for any other reason and if they are not needed for this purpose, they will be securely disposed of after 3 weeks.

The welcomer will let people into the building in households/bubbles. You will be asked to sanitise your hands on arrival, then go immediately to a seat in church.

The seating in church will be arranged in ones and twos at 2m intervals from each other. We ask you to go straight to your seat and remain there for the duration of the service.

Gentle music will be playing to help you pray as you wait for the service to begin.

The doors will remain open during the service to allow some ventilation so you may notice it is a little cooler than you expect.

During the Service

The words you need for the service will be on a paper order of service on your seat or projected onto the screen. If you receive a paper copy (8:00 am) this will then be your personal copy. Please take it home with you after the service and bring it back next time.

The service will be livestreamed on our Facebook page, but those watching at home will only be able to see those on the chancel step e.g. the priest, someone leading the prayers etc. To ensure we include those worshiping at home, some elements of service (e.g. a reading, the prayers or a sermon) may be given by someone at home. You will be able to listen to the audio of this.

Due to risk of aerosol spread, there will be no singing during the service.

We ask that when you are saying the responses that you speak quietly and prayerfully – again to reduce risk of droplet spread.

During distribution of communion, only bread will be distributed. The priest will wear a mask and wash their hands before distribution. The bread will be distributed from the chancel step, please remain standing to receive. Please form an appropriately distanced queue and return to your seat avoiding others. You might want to use your hand sanitizer (if you have brought some) before receiving communion.

If you do not want to receive communion for any reason, that is absolutely fine – just place your hands across your chest and the priest will pray a blessing instead or remain in your seat.

At the end of the service

After the priest has processed out, the welcomer will ask people to leave a row at a time.

Please wait for the welcomer to ask you to leave.

Please take any orders of service home with you

Please do not stop to chat while leaving the building. Once out of the building you are welcome to talk in small groups of not more than 6 in the churchyard.

Please do not block other people's exit from the building.

Please remember to stay 2m apart from people from other households.

If you test positive for coronavirus up to three weeks after the service, please let us know.