

**Covid Precautions and Safety from September 2021
at St Bartholomew's Thurstaston and St Chad's Irby**

- **Track and Trace** – If you have got into the habit of filling in a bringing a trace and trace form with you to services, please continue to do that. Otherwise, the sides people will ask for your name and a contact phone number. After the service, this list will be stored in the parish office for three weeks and then destroyed.
- **Hand sanitiser** will continue to be available
- **Face Coverings** - whilst it is no longer a legal requirement to wear a face covering in church we would ask you to ensure you have one with you, and encourage you to wear it when appropriate - either for yourself or for others near to you. We would encourage you to wear it for entry and exit to church and when moving around. We will require you to wear it when singing.
- **Service books and Hymn Books**
 - At St Bartholomew's, these will be in the pews, please stack them carefully at the end of the service.
 - At St Chad's, these will be in a box at the back of church. Please take what you need (you will be guided by the sides people) and then return the books to the correct boxes at the end of the service.
- **Notice Sheets** will remain online. However, there will be some available in church each week, please ask the sides people if you would like a copy.
- **One way system** will remain in place at St Chad's
- **Ventilation** – we'll continue to keep the doors and windows open
- **Social distancing:**

We recognize that there are a whole lot of good reasons people will still wish to sit socially distanced, both for themselves and for others. If you choose to sit in a non-socially distanced part of church, we ask that you remain considerate to others when choosing where to sit and please space out as much as possible.

 - At St Bartholomew's – One side of the church building will maintain social distancing measures, whilst the other will be non-socially distanced.
 - At St Chad's – When the sides people put the chairs out each week, they will ensure that there are always some which are socially distanced. Please speak to the sides people if you have a specific requirement which doesn't appear to have been met in the seating layout.
- **Singing** is now permitted but only if wearing a face covering.
- **Communion:** Communion will be done by "simultaneous administration". You will be invited to come to the communion rail (wearing a face covering whilst moving) and to remain standing to receive. If mobility makes this difficult for you, please inform the minister or the sidespeople and communion to be brought to you.

The simultaneous administration of consecrated bread and wine is effected by the president taking a wafer carefully from the paten or ciborium with the fingers and touching it briefly but carefully to the surface of the wine, allowing a small amount of the wine to suffuse into the bread.

Come September we will review whether everyone coming to the communion rail is appropriate and/or whether we return to using a common cup to serve wine.

 - At St Bartholomew's – Please come forward starting from the front pews and leave appropriate space between yourself and the person in front of you. Please only queue on the organ side in the sanctuary (ie between the choir stalls, but not between the pews were people are still sitting or returning to sit down). Please come and stand in front of the minister still wearing your face covering and hold your hands out at arm's length (or cross your arms if you wish to receive a blessing). Once the bread and wine have been placed in your hands, please take a couple of steps to your left, remove your face covering and consume, then replace your face covering and return to your seat keeping as much distance as possible from the people queuing to receive. Please be patient as this will take a bit longer than normal.
 - At St Chad's – Please come forward using the central aisle starting from the front rows and leave appropriate space between yourself and the person in front of you. Please come and stand in front of the minister still wearing your face covering and hold your hands out at arm's length (or cross your arms if you wish to receive a blessing). Once the bread and wine have been placed in your hands, please take a couple of steps to your left or right (depending upon where the space is), remove your face covering and consume, then replace your face covering and continue to walk to the wall end of the rows of chairs and thereby circle back to your seat, keeping as much distance as possible from the people queuing to receive. Please be patient as this will take a bit longer than normal.
- **Chatting and Fellowship**
 - At St Bartholomew's, please try to do this outside of the building. The aisle is too narrow for people to safely pass if you are chatting to someone.
 - At St Chad's, please try to do this outside whenever possible, unless you have a drink in your hand – see below.
- **Refreshments** at St Chad's – Only the people on the rota will be allowed in the kitchen. Please do not enter for any other reason. Drinks will be served through the hatch. The volunteers will add any milk or sugar that you require (in order to reduce the number of people touching milk jugs/bottles and spoons. Please queue wearing a face covering and at a safe distance from the person in front of you. Please do not allow children to approach the hatch. Once you have collected your drink(s), please move away from the hatch and sit down to enjoy your drink whilst chatting to others who are sat near you. When you have finished your drink, please return your cup ASAP to the hatch, so that the volunteers can wash up and leave the kitchen safe and tidy for the next group in the building. At this stage we will be serving drinks only. We will reconsider biscuits at a future stage.