

Christ Church Crookham COVID Transition Policy

We have entered a 'Transition' period, as we gradually move from the former strict COVID regulations towards greater freedom. This period is one of continued anxiety for many, and our approach will be one of respecting other people's sense of safety.

1. We are allowed to sing, and will do so.
2. Although we don't have to socially distance, we will have fewer chairs in Church so as to allow each person more space. We will encourage all to respect each other's space.
3. At first, we will continue to share the peace with a wave, though individuals may agree to do so with personal contact. As time passes, we hope gradually to return to physical contact as a norm.
4. We will continue to keep records of who attends our services, asking everyone to sign in on entry.
5. Everyone has a right to wear a facemask if they choose.
6. We will encourage people to continue to sanitise their hands.
7. We will take communion in both bread and wine, the wafer being 'intincted' – ie. being touched to the wine by the priest.
8. We will continue to use the North door (the one across from the car park) as our main entrance, but any exit may be used at the end.
9. Coffee and tea will be served from the 1st of August.
10. The underlying practice is for everyone to have respect for others.

The following is taken from the Church of England COVID guidance:

Legal requirements

What can we legally do in Step 4?

From Step 4 legal limits on the numbers of people allowed to meet indoors and outdoors will be removed, including all capacity limits in churches and other venues, as well as removal of the 1 meter+ social distancing rules. It will no longer be a legal requirement to wear a face covering, though the government expects and recommends that people wear face coverings in crowded and enclosed settings to protect themselves and others.

Whether a church encourages the use of face coverings will depend on consideration of a number of factors, including the size of the building and the numbers of those present at a

particular event. There is no formula for calculating this but carrying out a risk assessment for particular events may help with decision making. There will no longer be limits on the number of people who can attend weddings, funerals and other life events (including receptions and celebrations). There will also be no restrictions on choirs and music groups, whether amateur or professional, or on congregational singing. There will no longer be restrictions on group sizes for attending communal worship.

Although social distancing measures and face coverings are no longer required by law, the incumbent may still make decisions to retain some or all of these measures if they believe doing so is important for safety in their building, or if they judge that it will help people to feel more secure in returning to worship and other uses of the building. Who make the decision on what happens in church settings and at events held in church buildings? The responsibility for making decisions about how to proceed lies with the incumbent. This applies to acts of worship, to events run by the PCC or church community, and to decisions on whether to hire out spaces or allow other events to proceed. Incumbents should feel empowered to make locally appropriate decisions, including taking different approaches to different types of services and events where the risks may vary.

For more detail, see:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance#na>

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