

Public Worship at St Gabriel, Pimlico

Government Guidance

From the 4th July, St Gabriel's is once more open for everybody. We are open under direction from the Government, but we are open to give glory to God and that worship which is his due.

The requests set out below are designed to minimise the spread of infection. The list may look long but you should find it easy in practice and we expect you will be following much of it already. Over time it is likely that with experience and changes in Government guidance we will modify what we do.

Our requests

To help cleaning and reduce the risk of infection we ask that,

1. You wash your hands on arrival either with soap and water or with hand sanitiser
2. You keep to the designated area for the service you're attending
3. You do not use hassocks ('kneelers') since they mark out pews not to be used
4. You fill in a contact note for each service – this is information kept for 21 days so that if needs be there can be tracing of anyone who might have come into contact with in church (GDPR information is available on request)
5. If you use the W.C. you leave it as you would expect to find it (cleaning materials are provided for essential cleaning)
6. You do not exchange the sign of peace
7. Before communion you apply hand sanitiser
8. You receive communion in your hand
9. When you leave you place your contact information in the box provided
10. And your service booklet in the box provided

Please use standard ways to prevent infection, eg keeping at least 1 m distance from one another if not facing each other, 2 m distance of facing. You may wish to bring your own sanitiser with you and to wear gloves and a face mask.

At this time, we do not look to run a Sunday school but intend to do so once we are settled into the new restrictions on worship.

Also, at this time we are not allowed congregational singing

Vulnerable people

We are required to draw to your attention the following advice from the Church of England. This is advice (not law) for those who are considered vulnerable to think carefully about whether they should attend services at this time.

Certain groups of people may be at increased risk of severe disease from COVID-19, including people who are aged 70 or older, regardless of medical conditions. Individuals who fall within this group are advised to stay at home as much as possible and, if they do go out, to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside of their household.

Those who are considered to be extremely clinically vulnerable to COVID-19 will have been advised to shield and are currently advised not to meet more than one person from outside of their own household, and therefore not currently advised to attend places of worship.

From Monday 6 July, those shielding individuals may choose to gather in groups of up to 6 people outdoors and form a support bubble with another household, they will therefore still be advised not to attend places of worship indoors.

Anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell) should not attend the place of worship due to the risk that they pose to others; they should self-isolate at home immediately with other members of their household. Remote participation should be considered, for example by live streaming. This applies equally to individuals who work at the place of worship.

Where individuals are self-isolating due to a possible or confirmed case of COVID-19 in the household, or because they have been requested to so by NHS Test & Trace, they should participate remotely.