



# Guidelines for Weddings during Covid-19 (allowed from 04/07/2020)

For weddings held during the Covid-19 period, we ask that the following guidance is followed:

## **Communication with the bride and groom**

- Any interaction with the bride and groom should be done safely; this may mean by telephone or video link. It is important not to share documents, books, photos etc.
- It is also possible to meet with the bride and groom outdoors, for example in their garden, as long as social distancing is observed.

## **Guests**

- A maximum of 30 people can attend in keeping with current legislation. This includes the bride, groom, vicar, organist, PA operator, photographer etc. No exceptions are to be made.
- We ask that anyone showing symptoms of Covid-19 or who has been asked to self-isolate as part of Track and Trace does not attend.
- Please take extra care if any guests are classed as extremely clinically vulnerable (those who are 'shielding') or clinically vulnerable (e.g. those over 70 or with underlying health conditions etc).
- Guests from different households should travel to and from the wedding using their own transport.
- There should not be a party after the service.

## **Social Distancing**

- Apart from the bride and groom, or those who are members of the same household, social distancing should be observed. This will remain at 2 metres due to the church building having no ventilation system and screens will not be in place between family groups. Guests may wear face masks if they choose to, but we will not be making this a requirement at this stage.
- When seated, 2 metre social distancing is the equivalent to one household on every third row.
- The minister conducting the ceremony should not touch the rings nor the couple's hands.
- When arriving for and leaving the service, social distancing should be maintained. This may involve queuing to enter or to leave.

## **Signing the register**

- All those signing the register should sanitise their hands before signing the register and certificates. They should then complete all signatures necessary for them, and then sanitise their hands again when they have finished.
- Apart from the bride and groom, or those who are members of the same household, social distancing should be maintained during the signing of the register.

## **Hygiene**

- All present should sanitise their hands upon arrival and prior to leaving the building.
- Singing is currently banned for services so no singing should take place. Music may be played on the piano, organ or via the PA system if the bride and groom would like to do this as an alternative.
- If Bibles are to be used, please place them on the stage area after the service where they will be left untouched for 72 hours.
- If Orders of service are to be used, they should be placed on seats prior to the service, and either taken home or disposed of after the service. If someone attending is from a household where someone is showing symptoms, the orders of service will be kept in a sealed bag for 72 hours prior to disposal.

## **Use of toilets**

- There is a one way system in place for use of the upstairs toilets. Entry is via the door in the main meeting room, and the exit will be through the lounge.
- It may be necessary to queue for use of the toilets, so please maintain social distancing.

## **Cleaning**

- The building should be cleaned before and after the ceremony following the guidance laid out in our Return to Work Risk Assessment.
- Alternatively, the upstairs part of the church building should be quarantined for 72 hours from when the final guest leaves.

\* We ask that the principles contained within our Return to Work Risk Assessment are followed. \*