

St George`s General risk assessment form

Area/activity assessed	Communal worship during Corona virus				
Persons at risk	Clergy, Worshippers				
Carried out by	Mick Read	Date	2 nd July 2020	Review date	TBC

<p>The following Risk assessment has been carried out using the current Church of England advice</p> <p>The predominant modes of transmission of Corona virus are by air and by surface.</p> <p>This Risk Assessment will consider them both separately. Firstly Air followed by Surface.</p> <p>The layout of the risk assessment roughly follows a timeline from entering to leaving church.</p> <p>Communion will be a separate item at the end of this risk assessment</p>		<p>The level of Risk score (R) is calculated by giving a score of 1-3 for the Likelihood (L) of someone catching Corona virus at a service assuming the controls are being followed.</p> <p>Then a score of 1 to 3 is given to the severity (S) if that were to happen.</p> <p>The two scores are then multiplied together to give the Risk score (R)</p> <p>As long as the following controls are followed the likelihood of someone catching coronavirus will be low hence the score of 1 in all cases.</p> <p>The severity of being infected remains high hence a score of 3 in all cases.</p> <p>R is the same in all cases $1 \times 3 = 3$ except Communion</p> <p>R is therefore medium. No further controls should be needed.</p>		<p>The level of risk will be regularly monitored.</p> <p>Additional controls will be added if they are required.</p>
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The following hazards have been identified where transmission could occur through the air.		The following controls will be implemented to help manage and reduce the risk to all parties				
Hazards	Risk of	Existing Controls	L	S	R	Additional Controls
<u>Over Capacity</u> . If too many people are in church the risk of transmission by Air will be increased and we will not be sticking to the 2m rule.	Catching Coronavirus	Martine, Stuart and Mick carried out an assessment on 1 st July 2020. We felt that 30 was the maximum we could fit in church and maintain the 2m rule. The maximum number of worshippers will be 30.	1	3	3	None at the present time subject to review.
<u>Entry to church</u> is a "Pinch Point" where congestion may occur	Catching Coronavirus	A one way system will be introduced for entering and exiting church. Entry to church will be via the side door and exit from the main door. To enter the church socially distanced queuing will be used. Markings could be used on the floor to determine 2m distance but if people are sensible this may not be necessary. The numbers attending will be low (30 max) The side entrance is a double door leading to a double inside door. These will all be kept open to reduce the possibility of congestion and keep movement into church flowing.	1	3	3	None at the present time subject to review
<u>Track & trace</u>		Worshippers will be required to give contact details which will be kept for 21 days.				

<u>Lack of ventilation</u> can contribute to transmission by Air	Catching Coronavirus	The church will be well ventilated when open. Some doors and windows will be open before, during and for a short time after the service.	1	3	3	None at the present time subject to review
<u>Moving around church</u> increases the risk of encounters between worshippers and thus transmission by air.	Catching Coronavirus	A one way system will be introduced for moving around church to reduce the risk of close contact. Worshippers will be encouraged to stay in their seats as much as possible. Worshippers will be asked to keep left in areas where one way is not possible to reduce the possibility of encounters. Seating will not be used in areas of the church that will be thorough fares.	1	3	3	None at the present time subject to review
<u>Seating.</u> Sitting too close together with worshippers who are not members of their own family increases the risk of transmission by air.	Catching Coronavirus	The capacity at this time is 30. Some pews will have to be off limits to allow us to keep to the 2m rule. Seats that are available to sit on will have the pew cushions left in place all other cushions will be removed indicating seats off limits. We will trust people to be sensible in choosing where to sit.	1	3	3	None at the present time subject to review
<u>Singing</u> increases the distance that droplets are exhaled.		We will not be allowed to sing until government and or diocese advise otherwise.	1	3	3	None at the present time subject to review
Music group		The music group will not be allowed instruments that can be blown into. One singer will be allowed possibly screened. CD music is allowed.	1	3	3	None at the present time subject to review
Said liturgy <u>shouting or speaking in a loud voice</u> increases the distance droplets travel in the air Standing has the same effect.		Worshippers will be requested to keep to a low voice in their responses. They will be requested to stay seated.	1	3	3	None at the present time subject to review

The peace		Will not be allowed				
Prayer Ministry. This would normally involve sitting at close proximity to each other.		Not available at this time we cannot keep confidentiality and keep the 2m rule.				
Children		Children will need to be closely supervised by their parents at all times. Junior is not permitted under the current guidance but will be reviewed when changed guidance is received.	1	3	3	None at the present time subject to review
clinically extremely vulnerable group	Getting ill or dying if catching corona virus	We will advise those who are in the 'clinically extremely vulnerable' group of the risks of attending public worship and that it is currently not prudent to attend. It is not reasonably practicable for the PCC to take additional precautions to provide suitable protection for this group hence the guidance to not participate in this current phase of re-opening.	1	3	3	We recommend that all people in the clinically extremely vulnerable' group heed the current government advice
Vulnerable groups	Getting ill or dying if catching corona virus	We will advise those at extra risk, in the vulnerable group of the risks of attending public worship and that their attendance is not advised under the current guidance. We recognise that the decision to do so is theirs alone. It is not reasonably practicable for the PCC to take additional precautions to provide sufficient protection for this group hence the guidance to not participate in this current phase of re-opening.	1	3	3	We recommend that all people in the venerable groups heed the current government advice.

<u>Time</u> The longer worshippers from different household spend together the greater the risk of transmission		We will limit the length of the service to 30 minutes	1	3	3	None at the present time subject to review
Refreshments. The practicalities of managing the risk are too much at this time.		Will not be served	1	3	3	None at the present time subject to review
Exit from church is a “pinch point” where worshipers may get too close together and needs to be managed.		Worshipers will be asked to leave a few at a time starting with those closest to the door.	1	3	3	None at the present time subject to review
The following hazards where transmission might occur by Surface have been identified.						
All surfaces		Church cleaning. The Centre are going to provide an initial deep clean. The church will then be cleaned for two hours on a Wednesday or Thursday.	1	3	3	None at the present time subject to review
Corona virus on Skin		Hand sanitiser will be available at the entry and exit point. Everyone entering and exiting church will be required to sanitize their hands.	1	3	3	None at the present time subject to review
Door handles to church		Both side doors and both internal door will be opened by the Church Wardens or designated stewards before the service so the door handles should not be touched by worshippers. The steward will ensure that the door handles are sanitised anyway to make certain no transmission by surface occurs. Exit doors will also be opened by the steward so the	1	3	3	None at the present time subject to review

		same will apply.				
Door handles to the toilet.		Sanitising wipes will be made available so users can wipe down door handle before and after use. Hand sanitizer will be outside the door.	1	3	3	None at the present time subject to review
<u>Toilet</u> The toilet has many surfaces which could carry corona virus.		Hand sanitizer will be available outside the toilet Single use paper towels are already in place. A clean visual cleaning rota will be displayed. Signs on good hand washing will be displayed. Toilets will be cleaned to a high standard	1	3	3	None at the present time subject to review
<u>Collection.</u> Passing of the collection plate from person to person increases the risk of transmission by surface contact.		The collection plate will not be passed around. Worshippers will be encouraged to give by standing order or to leave their donation in a basket near the door.	1	3	3	None at the present time subject to review
Hymn books, bibles service sheets and kneelers are moveable items which could carry Corona virus		All moveable items will be removed from church.	1	3	3	None at the present time subject to review
<u>Church library</u> The books in the library can carry the virus		The library will be closed and covered.				None at the present time subject to review
<u>Seating</u> can carry the virus especially shiny surfaces such as wood for up to 72 hours		The preferred option is that church is quarantined for 72 hours after use. The church diary will be managed to make this possible. However the church must be thoroughly cleaned if this is not possible as per Public Health England guidance on cleaning in non healthcare settings.	1	3	3	None at the present time subject to review

<p><u>Soft play area.</u> There are multiple surfaces which could carry the virus and preventing sharing of toys etc in this area would not be practical</p>		<p>This will not be in use as per the government guidelines However if all toys are removed it could be used for one family if required.</p>	1	3	3	<p>This will be reviewed if the guidelines change</p>
<p><u>Lack of information or knowledge of how to behave</u></p>		<p>A clear information leaflet will be produced and sent by post or email explaining on a time line basis from when they enter to when they leave of what to expect and what is expected of them.</p>				<p>This can be amended as and when needed.</p>
<p>Cleaning the church after a known exposure.</p>		<p>If possible the church will be quarantined for 72 hours. If this is possible cleaning will then be done in the normal way. (Services may be cancelled at the discretion of the PIC to allow for 72 hours to elapse and therefore reduce the risk to the cleaning staff) If quarantine is not possible the cleaning as per Public Health England guidance on cleaning in non healthcare settings will be implemented.</p>	1	3	3	<p>None at the present time subject to review</p>
<p>Communion</p>		<p>We will follow the Church of England's advice. The following are bullet points giving a rough idea of how we might do communion. For further information please visit the Church of England Web Site. The Priest will not speak over the bread unless it is covered. Worshippers will sanitise hands before and after Worshippers will have to observe the 2m rule while queuing Bread will be administered in silence.</p> <p>Taken from the CofE advice Q. How can the president maintain physical distancing when administering the bread? A. We recognise that it will not be possible to maintain the ideal distance of two metres for the brief time that</p>	2	3	6	<p>The likelihood of transmission increases with not being able to stick to the 2m rule so I have score L 2</p>

		the priest administers the sacrament. However, the risk associated with this is relatively low, especially if face-coverings are worn. Where either priests or parishioners are uncomfortable with this, it is important that no pressure is placed on priests to preside at Holy Communion or on parishioners to receive the Sacrament.				

Likelihood.

1= low (seldom)

2 = medium (frequently)

3 = high (certain or near certain)

Severity

1=low (minor cuts & bruises)

2 = medium (serious injury)

3=- high (fatality or numbers injured)

Risk

1-2 = low priority

3-4 = medium priority

6-9 = high priority