

ST PETER'S, WESTHAMPNETT

Guidance on the Lifting of Covid Restrictions



As you will be aware, all Government Covid restrictions were lifted on 19 July. However, we have been urged to remain cautious.

On 19 July the Church of England also issued extensive guidance to clergy which you can access here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-07/COVID%2019%20Guidance%20from%20the%2019th%20July%202021%20v1.0.pdf>

Having discussed this with the members of Standing Committee, I have decided to have a staged approach to lifting restrictions as follows:

1. This Sunday, 25 July we will:

- a. cease the paper 'track & trace' but encourage people, especially visitors, to use the QR Code in the porch and on the table near the door;
- b. allow people to sanitize their own hands (there will be sanitizer in the porch);
- c. continue to encourage mask wearing (although we cannot insist on it);
- d. restore congregational singing (including the sung Mass settings – the words of which are on the pewsheets);
- e. maintain socially distanced seating;
- f. maintain the distribution of Communion from the chancel steps, via a single line up the nave, with return down the south aisle;
- g. maintain distribution of Communion in one kind, only using gloves.

2. On Sunday, 1 August we will:

- a. restore the Gospel procession, with server(s) and celebrant processing to the crossing and the congregation turning to face the Gospel as it passes;
- b. introduce Communion with intinction – the C of E guidelines call it *simultaneous administration*. This has, in fact, been permitted throughout the pandemic. The procedure is as follows:
 - i. At the Eucharist, a covered chalice of wine (from which the celebrant does NOT drink) is consecrated.
 - ii. At the distribution, the chalice is uncovered and held by an adult server (wearing a mask) and the celebrant briefly dips each host in the wine before communicating each congregation member.

Please note: Although I am permitted to do so, I do not, for the foreseeable future, plan on reinstating the sharing of a common cup, because of the risk of infection. I also envisage maintaining socially distanced seating as far as possible, because we can generally seat our Sunday congregation quite comfortably while doing so.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With every blessing,

(THE REVD RACHEL HAWES, Associate Rector, 24 July 2021)