

## Risk assessment for opening church building for public worship

Church: *St John the Baptist, Rowlands Castle*

Date: *19 July 2021*

Review: *1 month, or any sooner change of practice*

NB: This document addresses only specific risks arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Risk	Action(s)	Comments
Transmission of virus from hands to surfaces.	Hand sanitiser provided at entrance, with signs directing use.	All who attend worship must use sanitiser on entrance. Steward to ensure compliance.
Transmission of virus from surfaces.	High touch surfaces to be cleaned between the service. Doors open during public access to prevent need to use handles.	CofE advice is that non-routine cleaning is not required once the building has been closed for 72 hours.
Virus present in atmosphere.	Two doors open at all times during public worship to allow airflow.	High ceiling is mitigating factor.
Known exposure of building to someone with Covid-19 symptoms.	Building to be completely closed to all access for 72 hours and then cleaned before re-opening to public.	Signage to ask those with symptoms (or who should be isolating) not to enter.
Transmission of virus from service sheets.	Hand washing before printing, folding and stapling service sheets. Individual service sheets provided and taken away after service. 8am service sheets isolated for 1 week after service.	
Sharing the peace	No physical contact sharing the peace.	
Holy Communion - Consecration	Bread to be consumed by the congregation to be covered during the eucharistic prayer in a ciborium. Individual communion wafers only. Hands sanitised before preparing the altar. Wine distributed by intinction by the president. Training given the those setting up the altar at 8am.	
Holy Communion – Distribution Risk of transmission from altar rail and presidents' hands.	Hands sanitised after applying mask and before distribution. Communicants to sanitise hands before receiving communion. Standing distribution only so that contact with the altar rail is not made. President to avoid contact with the hands of worshipper receiving communion.	If any contact is made between president and communicant's hands both should sanitise hands immediately.

Cleaning of communion vessels	Vessels to be cleaned by the president and isolated for 1 week.	
Reserved Sacrament	The president places the consecrated bread in the vessel for reservation. It should not be consumed for 72 hours by anyone other than the president.	
Transmission of virus through airborne particles.	It is advised to continuing wearing facemasks for worship to protect others but no longer enforced.	
Track and Trace	All congregation members to sign in and have completed a contact form.	Welcome to ensure compliance. Records destroyed after 21 days.