

# Guidance on wear face coverings from the Church of England

Face coverings are currently mandatory on public transport and in a range of indoor venues including places of worship and church halls. While there are exemptions, outlined below, **this is a legal requirement**. This advice is reflected in the specific Government guidance for conducting various worship services within enclosed spaces such as church building. This guidance also applies to us as we conduct church services within St Crispin's Sixth Form Centre.

## Who is exempt from wearing a face covering?

You do not need to wear a face covering if you have a legitimate reason not to. This includes:

- Those who are leading services or events in a place of worship, and those who assist them (for instance by reading, preaching, or leading prayer) do not always need to wear a face covering, although one should be worn especially if physical distancing cannot be maintained (i.e. distributing consumables) *This exemption does not apply to worshippers, who should wear face coverings consistent with the requirements for any other public space.*
- These exemptions will also cover the bride and groom at a wedding and those officiating at the wedding.
- These exemptions are made to enable communication, particularly with those who rely on lip-reading, facial expressions or clear sound; they do not exempt clergy and other leaders from wearing face coverings in other situations or during other activities.

There are a range of other reasons for not wearing a face covering, including:

- Young children under the age of 11
- Not being able to put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability
- If putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause you severe distress
- If you are travelling with or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading to communicate
- To avoid harm or injury, or the risk of harm or injury, to yourself or others
- To avoid injury, or to escape a risk of harm, and you do not have a face covering with you
- To eat or drink, but only if you need to
- To take medication
- If a police officer or other official requests you remove your face covering