

Thinking of coming along to our Christmas services at Arborfield?

We're so pleased to be able to run Christmas services this year, and would love it if you could join us...

Covid-19 has had a significant impact on how we're running things at the moment, so we want to make sure you know what to expect if you decide to come. The intention of this document is to let you know how we are complying with government guidelines and what you'll need to do if you're planning to come along.

- **Booking is essential.** This enables us to control numbers and not exceed capacity, which we must do if we're going to run events safely in our church building - social-distancing has significantly reduced how many people we can safely accommodate. You can book spaces for all our services via the links on the Barkham Church website. Please make only one booking per 'household bubble', and remember to select how many spaces you need when you do so.
- **Register of attendance.** A second reason why booking matters so much, is that it helps us keep a register of everyone who comes along, which we're required to do for 21 days after each service to assist with 'track & trace' in the event that anyone who was present later tests positive with the virus. (Those visiting the church building are also able to scan a QR code that will log their attendance via the NHS Covid App if you have it, but this is on top of pre-booking, not instead of)
- **Got symptoms?** If you have any of the symptoms of Covid-19 (high temperature, continuous cough, and/or loss of/change to senses of taste and smell), then we would politely ask you not to come, even if you've previously booked. Similarly, please don't come if you have had any of these symptoms in the 14 days beforehand, unless you have subsequently been tested for the virus, had a negative result, and been cleared to return to 'normal' life.
- **Social-distancing.** We have closed off every other pew in the church building, so that we can socially-distance at 1 metre+ for our church services. In order to maximise capacity you will be directed where to sit on arrival at all our services. Unless something very urgent comes up, you will then need to remain in your places until directed to leave at the end. Please be careful to maintain this distancing at all times, including arrival/departure.
- **No singing indoors.** Sadly, we're still not allowed to sing together during indoor services. Instead, we will listen to carols sung by a small number of singers who will be socially distanced at front of the church, to which we are allowed to hum along to if we wish.
- **Hand-sanitising.** Alcohol gel is available at the church porch for everyone to use prior to entry.
- **Orders of service.** Orders of service will be placed in the pews before the service begins, having only been put there by someone who has first sanitised their hands.

- **Face coverings.** Everyone will be required to wear a face covering whilst in the building. The only exemptions to this, in line with guidance from the Government and the Church of England, are for:
 - Children under the age of 11.
 - Anyone who is unable to put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability, or if putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause them severe distress.
 - Anyone who is travelling with or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading to communicate.
 - Eating and drinking, or in order to take medication.
 - Anyone who is speaking to someone who relies on lip reading, facial expressions and clear sound.

Please bring your own face coverings. Those leading, reading, and speaking will remove their face coverings to do these things, but from a safe distance and/or safely behind a protective screen in the pulpit.

- **Toilets.** The Church Hall will be open and the toilets will be available during the services. We'd encourage parents of smaller children to take them to the toilet at home before coming to church. We'd also encourage anyone who uses the toilets to sanitise on entry and exit with the gel provided.
- **No refreshments.** Sadly we won't be able serve refreshments after any of our Christmas services this year. Instead, we'll be asking people to leave the building straight away, in an orderly fashion, as directed by the welcomers, in order to maintain social distancing.
- **Cleaning.** The church building will be carefully cleaned between services to ensure that it is as Covid-secure as possible.
- **Ventilation.** The doors of the church building will be opened before each indoor service begins and will remain at least partly open for the duration in order to ensure good ventilation. It's hard to predict the temperature as the heating will be on, plus there are lots of candles, but it may be a bit colder or breezier than some would prefer, so do wrap up warm and bring a blanket if you wish.
- **Please be patient** Clearly things are going to be different, and it's possible there will be a few surprises along the way, so please do bear with us.

Thanks for reading this far, and we very much look forward to seeing you at some point over Christmas.

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