

St John's Church, Ranmoor

Opening and Managing our Church In step 4 of the roadmap out of lockdown.

The Government have moved to step 4 of the 'Roadmap out of Lockdown'. The approach taken by the Government in this step is to remove most coronavirus legislation but to promote guidance that emphasises the personal and corporate responsibility of individuals and organisations to protect others and themselves. Within the Church we believe that everyone is known and loved individually by God and that as many members within one body we are called to be responsible to and for one another, respecting the more vulnerable whose suffering is our suffering (1 Cor 12:12-27). The move to step 4 means we are being asked to take even more personal responsibility around coronavirus than when we were compelled to adhere to Government restrictions. These restrictions have necessarily been blunt instruments and for some people and in some places seem unnecessary or overly restrictive. For others, each easing of restrictions seemed to bring additional risk to themselves or those they love who have remained vulnerable to the virus. As a body we now need to move forward without these legal restrictions and as churches decide how best to manage the risk to ourselves and others. Church leaders are best placed to know their own communities and environments, the situations where there will be many people together who do not normally meet and the places where they will come together; to listen to the voices of vulnerable in their communities and where their fears and concerns lie.

Our Guidance here at St John's is to keep everyone safe and is not to move away from all Covid Legislation, but to take steps to remove the restrictions. We recognise that removing the restrictions completely would mean a significant increase in anxiety for many people. It is important not to make assumptions about how others feel about moving to Step 4 of the roadmap. We have taken time to consider this and therefore with immediate effect it this is our guidance to you:

- Please use sanitiser on entry and exit to the Church and respect people's personal space.

- Please wear a mask when moving around in church or singing. This is a step to help people feel secure as we are indoors and want the congregation to feel safe.
- Singing is now permitted in church by the congregation, and we ask that you wear your mask whilst singing.
- The choirs will enter and exit the church with masks on and up to 14 people will sing at any one time in the stalls. The choirs will not wear masks whilst singing as they will be significantly spaced out.
- The one-way system for serving Communion will remain in place. Please follow a church officer.
- Communion will take place with bread only for the time being.
- Social Distance will remain in the side aisles. All social distancing has been removed in the central aisles, but we ask that you respect others space.
- The number of people permitted in church at any one time is 300
- We will issue hymn books, and ask that people leave them on the pews after the service for 48 hours and they will be collected by a church officer.
- Track and trace – we will no longer keep your details if you have attended, however you can use the NHS track and trace QR code if you would like to and this will be displayed at the entrance to the church.
- Coffee at the end of the service will hopefully resume in September as the new school and choir term return.
- Clinically extremely vulnerable (CVE) – if you are CVE you are no longer advised to shield, however you should continue to follow government guidance.
- Toilets will be available for use in an emergency.
- The church will continue to be cleaned between services and groups.
- The guidance will be updated again in September before the term resumes.

If you have any queries please contact us 0114 230 1199,
administrator@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk or speak to a church officer

www.stjohnschurchranmoor.org.uk