

Welcome to St Andrew's Church

Church Services

We are delighted to be able to offer church services once again and we recognize the responsibility we have to keep everyone safe and reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19 when we are open. This is a detailed, and hopefully informative document to help us work through how we can safely worship together over the Summer season (July to end of August 2020). Please work with us to reduce the risk of getting and passing the virus on and have patience as we all become accustomed to a new system of using the church building. These are the measures we have taken to keep everybody safe.

- We will keep up to date with the guidance from the Government, Church of England and Diocese of Oxford on the opening of church buildings and provision of church services.
- We have cleaned the building and will continue to take all the necessary precautions to reduce the risk of contamination. Chairs will be changed between services on Sundays and quarantined for 72 hours before being used again.
- We have worked out the maximum number of people we can safely have in the church and set it up to support social distancing.
- We have signs and posters to give guidance on reducing the risk of infection in the building
- We will ensure that anyone involved in the service will be wearing a face covering except for when they are up front eg leading the service, preaching, reading or praying.
- We strongly encourage anyone attending a service to wear a face covering (except those that are exempted).
- We have provided hand sanitizer for use on leaving and entering the building and at other places in the building. There are hand washing facilities with running water, soap and hand dryers / paper towels
- We will communicate promptly with you over any concerns that someone with Covid-19 has been in the building.
- We will listen and act upon any concerns you have and maintain appropriate confidentiality.
- Please note: refreshments of any sort will not be available at present

As a church we would love to extend a welcome to anyone who wants to attend a church service. However, if you advised by the NHS that you fall into the category of being at high risk from coronavirus (extremely clinically vulnerable), then we would urge to continue to follow government advice and not to come to church or volunteer at the present time. However, if you decide you still want to attend services then you are more than welcome.

Types of Services

We aim to provide ways for people to engage online and live through this summer season. There follows some information on the different services and provision available. Clearly the look and feel of each service will be shaped to a greater or lesser extent by the need for social distancing and the fact that singing is not permitted. Please bear that in mind and be patient!

Time	Location	Service	Notes
Thurs 10am	St Andrews	Holy Communion	Holy Communion service (spoken following Book of Common Prayer or Common Worship)

Sunday 8am	St Andrews	Holy Communion	Holy Communion service as Thurs at 10am, with the same sermon repeated
Sunday 9.30am	Online	Family Worship	All-age family friendly worship service in the same style as our current 9.30 online service. This will be available through the week on playback.
Sunday 10am	St Andrews	Family reflections	Starting 26 th July. 30 – 40 mins of reflective worship for families (without singing and constrained movement). Content repeated on following Sunday for a different congregation. New content every 2 weeks.
Sunday 11.15am	Online	Morning worship	Morning worship, service of the word in the same style as our current 11.15 online service. Sermon generally filmed from 10am on Thursday with the addition of worship music. Available through the week on playback.
Sunday 3.30pm	Online - zoom	Cuttleslowe Connected	Family friendly worship service for the Cutteslowe community
Sunday 6pm	St Andrews	Evening Worship or 11-18s Youth Worship (Pathfinders + Saygo)	Evening reflective service of the word every 2 weeks, starting on 12 th July, with recorded worship music. Youth worship every 2 weeks, starting on 19 th July

1. **At the church: Holy Communion services (10am Thursday and 8am Sunday)** – we are aware that many people want to return to receive communion. The same communion service (same reading and sermon) will be offered on Thursday 10am and then the following Sunday at 8am;
2. **Online: 9.30 Family worship** – will be continuing online throughout the summer. It will go live at 9.30 on Sunday but can be watched again throughout the week through the website;
3. **At the church: 10am Family reflections** – is an opportunity for people to come together “live” on Sunday. We will work within the restrictions to bring 30-40mins of worship activity and prayers for all ages, to be done in household groups or bubbles. It will be led from the front, but will of necessity be reflective, and will need input from adults to help children with the activities that will be provided. We believe that engaging children in worship doesn’t always have to be loud and energetic but that this offers us a profound opportunity to enable our children to spend creative time in God’s presence. There will be activities in this service but they will not involve singing or moving around the building.

The 10am family reflection will have the same content for each fortnight – so there will be no need to try and go each week, but hopefully, those that want to, will be able to book in once a fortnight and find new material.

Family reflections 1	10am on July 26 th & Aug 2 nd
Family reflections 2	10am on Aug 9 th & Aug 16 th
Family reflections 3	10am on Aug 23 rd & Aug 30 th

4. **Online: 11.15 Morning Worship online** – will be a recorded version of the reading, prayers and sermon from the previous Thursday 10am. However additional items will be added to the recorded version which will be available from Sunday at 11.15, including hymns and songs
5. **Online: Cutteslowe Connected** continues on Zoom throughout the Summer;
6. **At the church: 6pm service** – will move to a fortnightly rota: the 6pm service (without singing) will take place on 12th July. On 19th July, there will be a youth service for SAYGO and Pathfinders together. That pattern will continue throughout the Summer:

6pm Evening Worship	12 th July	26 th July	9 th Aug	23 rd Aug
Youth service	19 th July	2 nd Aug	16 th Aug	30 th Aug

Booking into a church service

Please book into a church service through My ChurchSuite, via the calendar entry on the church website, or by telephoning the Parish Office on 01865 311212. Confirmation will be sent by email with further details about attending the service. At this point, you will not be able to attend the service unless you have booked a place because the number of people who can attend is restricted. We will look to change this in the future to provide some “walk-in” seats (see “Contact Tracing” below)

Bookings will open from the Friday at noon a week BEFORE the service until Tuesday at midnight (for Thursday Communion) and Friday at noon (for Sunday services). This will give us time to plan and arrange the seating for the services.

If more than one person in your household is coming to the service please remember to book a ticket for each person attending and indicate how many people from your household are attending.

Before you come to a church service

Please do not come into the building if you have knowingly been in contact with someone who has the Covid-19 virus within the previous 14 days, or you have symptoms of the virus including cough, a high temperature, shortness of breath, loss of taste and smell or other symptoms of Covid-19 or if you are meant to be self isolating due to quarantining rules after returning from a restricted country.

It would be helpful if you could bring your own Bible, tissues and hand sanitizer where possible. You are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering. Please bring a pen and paper if you want to write something down. You should bring your own drink if needed as there will be no access to the kitchen or refreshments at the church.

Coming into the church building

There will be stewards to meet you when you come into the building who will sign you in. They will ask you to use the hand sanitizer and ask you to take a seat in the church nearest the front.

All the relevant doors in the church will be left open so people will not need to touch door handles. The only exception to this will be the toilet doors.

Please pay particular attention to maintaining the 2 metre social distance on entering and leaving the building as well as inside and to make every effort to be at least 2 metres from any other person in the building at all times (excluding the members of your own household). We have added removable coloured discs to the floor to aid this.

During the service

Once you are in your seat please stay there until a steward invites you to go forward to receive Communion if this is part of the service, or to leave the building.

To help with ventilation and to reduce the need to touch door handles external doors will be kept open during the service. Please note that it may be a bit colder than normal in the building due to the added windows and doors being open.

We love having families with small children attending services. Any children attending services need to remain in the close orbit of the household group to which they belong.

Arrangements for receiving Holy Communion

Holy Communion will be of one kind, which means receiving the bread but not the shared cup. Please do not feel you have to receive the bread if you would rather not at this time, but simply attend the service; it is up to you. The bread to be received by the congregation will remain covered while the clergy speak words of the Communion service. The presiding clergy will receive communion in both kinds, but everyone else will receive Communion in one kind only. The words of distribution (“The body and blood of Christ keep you in eternal life”) will be spoken to the whole congregation, and all who intend to receive will be invited to say “Amen”. The distribution of Holy Communion will then happen in silence, and consecrated bread will be dropped into the hands of communicants. Face coverings can be removed at this point to allow you to take the bread. Clergy will use hand sanitizer before taking the bread and will be wearing a face covering whilst administering communion. This part of the service will take a little longer than usual owing to the need for social distancing whilst going to the front of the church.

Please only come up for Holy Communion if you are going to receive the bread. At this stage, please do not come forward if you would usually receive a prayer of blessing (this will be prayed over all congregants following the distribution).

Toilets

Toilets will be open for use. Our preference is that you refrain from using the toilets – however where needed, the toilets will be open. Please follow steward’s instructions on which toilets to use.

Leaving the service

We are unable to offer refreshments at this time. Please leave the building when asked to by the stewards.

We ask that while in the building you do not stop to chat but this is done outside of the building at a 2m distance between households.

Contact tracing

As we are taking bookings and signing people in via ChurchSuite we will have this information if needed for contact tracing. For the first few weeks we will only be taking bookings and we will not allow people to “drop in” for a service. In the future we may allow “Drop ins” but you would then be asked to fill in a contact slip on arrival. In this case, you will be asked to use your own pen and drop the slip with your contact details on in the basket provided. These will be shredded after 4 weeks.

Children’s and Youth Groups

School age children/youth are likely to be very aware of safety procedures for reducing the risk of Covid-19 transmission. The same measures are needed when they attend groups in St Andrew's Church buildings.

Children/youth who come to groups without parents must be able to understand and comply with the guidelines on social distancing and hand hygiene. Parents and carers have a responsibility for the children in their care.

Parents will not be able to stay in the building to wait for their children/youth during the group and must make appropriate drop-off and pick-up arrangements. Please ensure there is a safe hand-over procedure in place.

Additional information on youth and children's activities over the summer can be found by contacting:

Youth: ryan.torrie@standrewsoxford.org

Children: Lesley.dentry@standrewsoxford.org

or by contacting the parish office – parish.office@standrewsoxford.org