**Changes to Sunday Worship at St James’ from 25th July 2021**

The great news, first and foremost, is that we will be able to sing again.

So come with your singing voices ready to praise the Lord!

***The Current Covid Context***

Now that the Government has removed most coronavirus legislation there are fewer restrictions on Sunday worship in church buildings. However we're still responsible for protecting worshippers from unnecessary risk of infection.

While most St James’ members are likely to be double vaccinated, many are not. We know that no vaccine is 100% effective; a robust immune response isn't guaranteed and the impact of long-Covid is an ongoing concern. Therefore weneed to be particularly concerned for the immuno-suppressed, those clinically vulnerable to the virus and those who, for medical or personal reasons, have not been vaccinated.

***A Christian Perspective***

The Bible affirms 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. ‘There should be no division in the body, but … its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it… Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.’ *1 Corinthians 12:25-27*

Last Monday was popularly dubbed ‘Freedom Day’. The New Testament reveals that true freedom is not choosing to do as you please but rather, to ‘serve one another in love. The entire law is summoned up in a single command: ‘love your neighbour as yourself.’’ *Galatians 5:13-14.*

***Sunday Worship at St. James’ …for the present***

We will be relaxing some of the restrictions on Sundays but not all.

We will continue with a track and trace list, hand sanitising and F

We encourage everyone to continue to wear a face mask throughout the service, including the songs, to protect themselves and others. If, however, you do not want to wear one for part or all of the service, please ONLY sit in one of pews to the left of the central aisle as you enter the building (the two rows nearer the music group). All those in the pews to the right of the central aisle (the two rows nearer the font) must wear a mask throughout the service, including during the songs.

We will continue to social distance, leaving every other pew empty (those clearly marked ‘not in use’). However, you are now free to share a pew with someone who is not in your family ‘bubble’. To avoid misunderstanding, please check with them before sitting in their pew.

Holy Communion will follow the previous practice of receiving bread and wine together, with the minister intincting (dipping) the bread into the cup and handing to you.

To celebrate Arthur James’ Thanksgiving refreshments will be served on 25th July after the service. Please wear a mask to collect your drink from the small hall. If the weather is dry, please drink it outside; if it is raining please move into the large hall, social distanced from those not in your bubble.

We will adjust these new regulations as guidance and Covid transmission rates change.

Thank you so much for being willing to work with us as we seek to act with godly wisdom at this time.

**Jason Reid**

**23rd July 2021**

**What is the same as Before?**

* Track and Trace
* Face Mask when entering and leaving the building
* Sanitise hands on entry
* Every other row of pews left empty
* The current practice of receiving Holy Communion

**What has Changed?**

* Face Masks are encouraged for those sitting in two rows of pews to the left as you enter
* Face Masks are required for those sitting in two rows of pews to the right as you enter
* Singing permitted and encouraged!
* Refreshments on 25th July