



The Benefice of
Chelsfield with Green Street Green
and Pratts Bottom



Dear Parish friends

On Monday we received updated guidance from the Church of England. It is in line with the approach taken by the Government - 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.

The responsibility for making decisions on how to proceed lies with myself as the Incumbent. This applies to acts of worship, to events run by the PCC or church community, and to decisions on whether to hire out spaces or allow other events to proceed.

Therefore with the support of the church wardens and following discussions with the PCC, I am able to confirm that I have decided on a measured and cautious approach.

- We will continue to keep a record of those attending services to aid tracing should the need arise.
- Face coverings should be worn inside church at all times, except by the medically exempt and children under the age of 11, as expected and recommended in line with the Government's statement about crowded/enclosed settings.
- Most of the seating in St Martin's will be opened up and people may now sit in the same rows or next to friends by mutual agreement. An area of more spaced seating will be retained for use by those who wish to remain more socially distant. At Well Hill, services will continue to be held outside if at all possible.
- The Peace will remain contactless.
- Holy Communion will continue as in recent months with the president being the only person who receives Holy Communion in the form of wine.
- Although singing is now permitted it is noted that some activities can also increase the risk of catching or passing on Coronavirus; this includes singing where more particles are generated. The RSCM recommend a considered approach. Therefore at St Martin's we will be welcoming back the choir to sing during services and at both St Martin's and Well Hill we may move outside for the final hymn in order that everyone may sing.

It is my intention to review our Covid procedures towards the end of August

Rev Susan