

## **'Staying in Touch' – Church Communication in a time of Crisis -**

### **'Staying in Touch' – 'Covid 19 update 8<sup>th</sup> January - Level 5**

You will be aware that the Mayor of London has declared a 'Major incident' for Greater London and has requested the Prime Minister to close all places of worship. Please therefore continue to watch our website for updates.

However, at present, following the publication of Government guidelines on 4<sup>th</sup> January which allows for the continuation of permission for places of worship to remain open, we are pleased to announce that we are currently still open for services - in a Covid aware and compliant environment - see our website [Services and Worship page](#).

Our 'sister' church, St Mary's, has decided to close for the foreseeable future. In part this decision was taken to avoid people feeling that 'as it's open I ought to attend'. Having checked with some of our regular attendees I am of the view that some folk find that the church services offer them a 'lifeline' in ways that on-line worship does not (or in some cases cannot)

So for the time being, we will continue, though the position will be reviewed at the PCC meeting on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January. But we do need to be extra vigilant and to observe the following guidelines.

- **DO NOT COME TO CHURCH - if you have any symptoms, are shielding, or are worried about your health and safety.**
- **DO NOT FEEL YOU HAVE TO ATTEND – On-line worship, watching on TV, or listening to a radio broadcast is perfectly acceptable as 'church attendance' during this crisis.**
- **Ensure you bring a FACEMASK to church with you, and wear it throughout the service and in the churchyard and car park.**
- **Maintain a 2m minimum spacing and follow the instructions on the board in the porch and the directions of our service stewards. We've now changed the seating plan so that there are two empty pews between each occupied pew. Whilst this reduces capacity, it increases distancing for our safety.**
- **DO NOT socialise in Church or in the Churchyard, either before or after the service. Do not arrive too early, and leave immediately the service is over. Failure to do so may lead to the suspension of worship.**
- **The Churchyard Car Park gates will remain open for those attending services or visiting graves from 9.00am - 4.00pm Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Please contact the Rector if you require special access at any other times.**

Please be aware these details could change at any time.

Reverend John.