



Guidelines for Services at St Giles Church

We are delighted to be opening our church doors again and look forward to seeing you in-person! Much work has been done to make the church building covid-secure. We now need you to play your part to keep yourself and others safe. Make sure you familiarise yourself with the details below before you come to St Giles. It will give you an idea of what to expect and the precautions you need to take before arriving.

Limited capacity

We are going to be limiting the number of people within the building at any one time so we can create a safe and socially distanced experience. To do this you will need to reserve a ticket for every Sunday service and event. This will allow us to plan ahead, ensuring everyone has a seat. Family members of *all ages* will need to have a ticket reserved. Tickets will be available at least one week in advance but we ask that you only book tickets you will use so someone else doesn't miss out. If you find that you can no longer attend, please contact the church office to cancel your seat.

Please note that the doors will open 15 minutes before the service begins. Please arrive between this time and the start of the service. *If you are late your seat may be given to someone else.*

If you have not reserved a seat, you can turn up on the day, but we can't guarantee you admission. We will only be able to admit you if we have capacity in the building so make sure you book in advance.

Refreshments

Unfortunately we are not able to provide refreshments after the service. If you wish to bring your own drink, please keep it with you at all times.

Taking extra precautions



In line with government guidance we are asking everyone to sanitise their hands on entering the building, wear a face mask that covers your mouth and nose, and keep a distance of 2m with others who are not in their household or bubble.

All surfaces will be sanitised between services and toilets will be available to use.

When you arrive, the welcome team will greet you and you will be asked to sanitise your hands using the sanitiser station or your own sanitiser. You will then be directed to the check-in table where your attendance will be recorded. The wardens on duty will direct you to your seat. Please keep contact with surfaces to a minimum.

Please do not enter the building if you have any symptoms of Covid-19:

- A high fever
- A dry cough
- A loss of taste or smell

Please do not enter the building if you share a house with someone who has one or more of these symptoms, tested positive for Covid-19, asked to self-isolate, or is on the NHS shielding list.

Physical distancing

Seating will be arranged in accordance with the latest social distancing guidelines. Households and family units will be able to sit together as a bubble. If your last name is different to those in your household please let us know and we will try to seat you together. Please respect those around you by maintaining your distance throughout the service.

Families

Parents and carers will be required to keep their children with them at all times. We are able to offer a space for under 5's in the crèche but please bring your own toys and snacks as we are unable to share resources at this time. There will be a maximum of 2 adults allowed in the crèche space and current guidelines must be adhered to. The area will NOT be staffed so please remain with your child at all times.

Children can bring an activity, toy or book if they wish, for their own personal use but please keep these to a minimum.

Children (and babies) will need a separate ticket. They will need to be able to remain seated or in a buggy/pushchair with their family to ensure physical distancing measures are respected. We're going to need your help with this but feel free to chat to Beth or Jo about your situation!

Worship

At this time, we will not be singing out loud when we gather. In this season, we are being reminded that worship is so much more than singing! *God is looking for worship that flows from our hearts and the heart of worship is LOVE.* So our aim is that our services will be creative with room for spontaneity and contributions from the congregation. Our times together will feel less rushed and less busy than before with opportunity for silence and listening to God. We therefore encourage people to read the bible passage in advance and to come with 'hearts prepared'.

We hope to be more responsive to the Holy Spirit and to make room for words and pictures and as we rest in God's love and express our love to Him, we have a fresh opportunity to explore new depths in worship and prayer.

Finally, our services will be more outward looking as we pray each Sunday for the week ahead, for our town and for our nation. We want to pray for blessing and be a blessing to all around.

We will not initially be singing out loud when we gather but we hope that this does not restrict you from worshipping from your hands, your hearts and your humming!

While this may seem strange to many of us, worship is not just about singing – Romans 12: 'offer your bodies as living sacrifices' – it's a chance to experience God's love, to reflect, and to meditate on him.

Access

Please come in through the north door (that's the door nearest to Abington Street) and exit via the south door maintaining social distancing at all times.

Test and Trace

By booking a seat you agree that your details may be shared with the necessary authorities in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak. For more information see our Privacy Policy.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Church Office

Tel: 01604 628623

office@stgilesnorthampton.org.uk

