

Coming back to Sunday Worship Joyfully but Safely

Rev Adam Pawley, Rector of Hope

Dear All,

It is a pleasure and a joy that we are able to gather together again for worship in Hope Church this Sunday 6 September for the first time in nearly six months, with services at both 11am and 4pm.

Whilst this return comes with much rejoicing, we also acknowledge that we are still living in a world changed by Covid-19. Our Sunday services will be as affected by this as other areas of life. We will carry a tension of joy and sorrow as we gather.

The church being open for worship should not make anyone feel obliged to come along at this stage. Those at increased risk from Covid-19 should consider very carefully whether it is right for you to attend in person, given the continued advice to minimise contact with others, particularly indoors. This is why our online services are continuing at 2pm on a Sunday afternoon. This Sunday on Facebook will be another opportunity to hear Gareth's sermon that he will be sharing in our 11am service of Celtic Prayer to mark St Cynfarch's Day on 8th September.

Here then is how we can ensure a duty of care to each other in light of Covid-19 guidelines that are currently in place:

Prior to the service

1. **Ensure that you and your household are well.** If you or a member of your household has shown symptoms of Covid-19 (new cough, high temperature, loss of taste or smell) in the last 14 days then you must not come to worship.
2. Please remember that **Attendance is by advance booking only.** Please ensure you have booked your place with Liz for the 11am service and Adam Taylor for the 4pm service:
 - Liz – Call 01978 76286 | Text 07913 802945 | Email eliz@alipee.plus.com
 - Adam Taylor – Call/Text 07718 618622 | Email adamtaylor126@btinternet.com
3. **Please bring a face covering with you** – more information on face coverings below
4. You may also wish to bring your own hand sanitizer and print off a copy of the order of service. If you do not give by standing order or gift direct then you can give cash only at the end of the service.
5. **Arrive confident**, knowing that the church will have been cleaned by one or more of our volunteer cleaners – thank you very much to our team of volunteers

Entry and Exit – including good hand hygiene, social distancing + seating

1. **Entry and exit will be by both doors** – the main west doors and the vestry entrance.
2. Ensure that you **use the hand sanitizer gel** provided on both entry and exit.
3. Ensure that you keep **2m+ social distancing** from members who are not in your household at all times, when moving around and when seated.
4. As a duty of care to one another, please **consider wearing a face covering and always where social distancing is not possible**
5. A sides-person (steward) will direct you to your seat. We will fill up from the front first and from the wall in and exit from the back first. Please ensure that you **take your seat immediately**, we are not allowed to gather in church. The pews in which you can sit are labelled and approximately 2.5m apart. The very front pews will remain empty.

6. **Printed order of service leaflets will be in your pew** ready for you.
7. As you leave, **please leave the church from the back first and quickly**. It is important that we do not congregate closely for conversation and especially not indoors.

Face Coverings in Church

1. As your Rector with a pastoral duty of care to you, I invite you to **consider wearing a three-layered face covering in church**. Face coverings inside buildings in Wales are not mandatory, but I think it does us well to remember that face coverings benefit primarily those around us above the wearer and that in all our congregations it is possible we have regulars who are vulnerable to Covid-19.
2. Your service leaders will wear a face mask or visor where practical and always where social distancing is not possible – for e.g. when walking down the aisle, at the baptism of a child or at the giving of communion. Please ensure that you wear a face covering when social distancing is not possible, such as when moving around the building.
3. You can read the **Welsh Assembly Government guidance** on face coverings here <https://gov.wales/face-coverings-frequently-asked-questions>

Music, Singing, Saying Prayers and Sharing News

1. We are able to say prayers together, but we are asked to speak quietly.
2. We are unable to sing together at this time and for the foreseeable future but we can still create opportunities to enjoy listening to pre-recorded and live music together.
3. During our news slot in Hope.4.All, our service leader will wear a face covering and rather than pass the microphone around, only the service leader will use the microphone. Any news an individual wishes to share, the service leader will relay to the congregation.

Giving Money

1. We will not be passing the money plate around during the service.
2. If you wish to give money please **give by standing order or by gift direct**. More information on how we can give at this time is on page 24 of the August and September Church Magazines and online here: www.hopeparishchurch.org/giving.
3. Alternatively please give on the plate at the back of the church as you leave and ensure you sanitize your hands after any handling of money.

Refreshments, Toilets and the Church Hall

1. Given we are not able to serve refreshments on our premises at this time, you are welcome to **bring your own drink** (hot or cold)
2. After the 11am service, weather permitting, we will gather outside, socially distant, in the church grounds for refreshments. You may like to **bring your own chair at 11am**.
3. To Hope.4.All (our 4pm service), you are welcome to bring your own drink and sit with your household in the pew prior to the service and chat quietly, whilst seated socially distant, with others.
4. It is unfortunate that **the church hall must remain closed** at present and that the **toilets will not be available** except in case of emergency. For your peace of mind, we are aiming for thirty minute services at this time.

Children

1. Children are very welcome in church. However for the foreseeable future **the children's area will remain closed** and we are not allowed to offer children's and youth activities at this time.
2. We encourage **all children to remain seated during the service in their households**. Whilst children under 11 in Wales do not have to socially distance from each other, remember that adults and children are expected to socially distance and parents may want their children to socially distance from other children too. If your child goes towards another child, please ensure that both parents are happy for their children to mix.
3. The Hope.4.All (4pm) Service will include a talk that both adults and children will enjoy and be able to take part in.
4. You may like to **bring your own quiet toys, books or colouring sheets** for your children during the service.

Test, Trace and Protect (TTP)

1. As we are using a booking system for services at present, we will keep a register of everyone who attends our services for 21 days after the service so that we can play our part in the national **Test, Trace and Protect** initiative that asks us to record names and contact details for all those who may have breached the 2m social distancing rule.
2. You do not have to take part in the TTP initiative. If you would like your name removed from the TTP list then please inform Liz Poynton (11am service) or Adam Taylor (4pm) with whom you booked your place with.

Holy Communion in Hope Church

1. **We have been advised that our first service back in church is not communion**. The Church In Wales has however given guidelines on the safe administration of Holy Communion in church – namely the giving of bread alone for the foreseeable future.
2. I anticipate offering **Holy Communion in Hope Church at 11am next week on Sunday 13th September** and thereafter on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month as we did prior to Lockdown. I may be in a position to offer Holy Communion in Hope twice in September, watch this space.
3. Sunday 4th October will be **Gareth's first celebration of Holy Communion in Hope Church**, following his ordination as priest in the Cathedral on 3rd October. Unfortunately we will not be able to attend Gareth's ordination in light of Covid-19.

All of this may seem like a lot to take in but it is important for us all to play our part in keeping everyone in our congregations, as well as our families, households and local communities safe.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read and process this before Sunday. I look forward to welcoming you back to Hope Church, joyfully and safely.

Adam

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