



Pattern of services from mid-September

As we know, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives in many ways, but some things have begun to open up again, and church is no exception. In July we were able to resume our mid-week and Sunday 8am communion services while continuing with those we livestream, but we have been looking at how we might, while not returning to normal, offer more services in our two buildings while remaining compliant with the various government and Church of England regulations in order that we do our utmost to keep everyone safe.

To this end we asked people in a questionnaire whether or not they were likely to attend resumed but restricted services, and 55% said they would, 22.5% weren't sure and 22.5% said it was unlikely they would (total responses were 134). Thus there is a clear appetite for resumption.

Therefore, at its meeting on 11th August, after a full and careful consideration of the matter, the PCC agreed to the following **PROVISIONAL** pattern of services from 20th September, assuming there has not been a change in regulations in the meantime – which is of course **great news**, as we have all been missing our times of fellowship together

1st Sunday of the month	9am Holy Communion, 10.30 All Age Service –St John's, 10.30 All Age Communion, St Luke's
2nd Sunday of the month	9am Holy Communion, 10.30 Morning Worship with children's groups but no creche (not allowed) –St John's 10.30 All Age Service, St Luke's
3rd Sunday of the month	9am Holy Communion, 10.30 Holy Communion with children's groups but no creche (not allowed), St John's 10.30 All Age Service, St Luke's
4th Sunday of the month	9am Holy Communion, 10.30 Morning Worship with children's groups but no creche(not allowed), St John's 10.30 All Age Service, St Luke's
5th Sunday of the month	9am Holy Communion, 10.30 Morning Worship with children's groups but no creche (not allowed), St John's 10.30 All Age Service, St Luke's
Wednesdays	10.30 Holy Communion

NB the plan is also **to continue to livestream** one of the two 10.30 services each week for those who prefer to worship in this way.

RATIONALE

Now this pattern represents a clear change from what was present before lockdown, but it was felt that

- a 9am instead of an 8am service would make our weekly Sunday communion more accessible (at present we only get 8 or 9 people)
- children's work was possible at St John's but not St Luke's, hence why all St Luke's services have to be all age

- parade services would not resume at present due to potential numbers involved and because uniformed groups as far as we know are not meeting at the moment
- such a pattern was sustainable with the resources we have

Key points

- Naturally there will be limits on congregational numbers to allow for social distancing, and it may well be that we implement a booking system – via Eventbrite or email – details have been communicated but you can book your tickets by following the link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/st-johns-and-st-lukes-30850527525>.
- Limits on capacity at St John's also means that we are requesting that parents take their children direct to their venue rather than join with the adults for the 1st part of the service and collect them from the venue at the end.
- We are not allowed to provide a creche because of government regulations and do not have the capacity to do Little Sparks at St John's – hence one of the reasons for the all age service at St Luke's
- At St John's, Bright Sparks (primary school age) children will be placed in 2 distinct 'bubbles' of a maximum of 15 and will meet in the hall which will be divided into two zones. Meanwhile secondary age young people, i.e. Café Logos, will meet in a bubble of up to 10 in the East End Room, accessing via the vicar's door (to the right of the main church entrance).
- NB This youth and children's work is dependent on us having sufficient team members willing to go on the rota.
- Service times will be shorter (about 45 minutes), partly to make sure children's work is not too long or because the service is all age, but mainly because we will not be allowed to engage in congregational singing. We can have a small group of singers, socially distanced, leading us, which we hope will be the case for the 10.30 services at St John's and St Luke's

COVID -19 Compliance

- We will expect people to wash their hands before leaving home, and to use the hand sanitiser as they enter and leave the building
- Face masks must be worn unless there is a genuine medical exemption
- Seating will be suitably spaced. People from the same household/bubble will be able to sit together
- A record will be taken of who attends for contact tracing purposes
- Cleaning – all venues – i.e. the 2 churches, St John's Hall and the East End room - will need to be cleaned after use. People will need to volunteer for this – **OTHERWISE WE CANNOT PROCEED**. Thus it should be that for the foreseeable future, people should see part of their attendance at church as involving cleaning – so perhaps we can see this as an act of humble service and regard it as integral to our worship.