

St Marys Wendover

Moving forward together as restrictions lift.

From 19th July the government have made all restrictions that have been in place during the pandemic optional and a matter of personal choice; the Church of England have subsequently issued guidance which places the decisions of what happens in St Mary's with me as incumbent.

We know that many of the restrictions we undertake are not for our own benefit but for the benefit of others. Sarah Mullaly, Bishop of London and lead bishop for the C of E recovery group in a statement praises the work of the vaccine and said the following "Taking personal responsibility means responsibility for our neighbour, not just for ourselves, and taking precautions to protect those more vulnerable than we consider ourselves to be".

I have consulted with colleagues and the Standing Committee and therefore as we move forward together, we will implement the following which will undoubtedly make a great difference to our worship whilst keeping everyone safe

- We strongly advise that people wear a face mask during the service.
- Hand sanitizer will continue to be available at the beginning of services.
- We will no longer require booking for services
- We will retain socially distanced seating
- We will resume the singing of hymns whilst asking people to remain seated, masked and facing the front. The music provision will remain as it has been for the last few months ie the music group in the chancel.
- We will continue to request that people remain at their seats during the peace.
- We will introduce moving to the step to receive communion, following a one-way system and continuing to receive only the bread.

There will be on-going review of these decisions before our full service pattern returns in September.

The same guidance will be in place for all weddings, funerals and baptisms in church.