

# All Saints Church, Allesley

## Risk Assessment Explanation during Covid-19

### Principles

At All Saints Church we take seriously the responsibility of being a safe place where people can worship the Lord and be held in community. When we are thinking about ensuring people's safety, we are trying to bear in mind keeping people physically safe, but also helping people to feel safe emotionally and mentally too. This comes from our sense of calling to love and care for the people God has placed us amongst.

Over the next few weeks and months, as more and more people are vaccinated and transmission rates are reduced by the lockdown, we hope and pray that we will continue to see a reduction in the number of people becoming infected, ill, hospitalised and dying from the Covid-19 virus. We can start to have hope and plan how and when to re-open the many different aspects of our church life. We will be taking this one step at a time, rather than producing a church road map, as we want to be attentive to the data around infection rates and vaccination, the governmental advice at each phase and the guidance from the Church of England. This will also enable us to be clear at each stage about what we are doing, rather than having a plan which may well need changing throughout the coming months and this could provoke some confusion.

The key principle in our thinking around how we move forward as a community is ensuring that we can ALL gather together again. The UK is seeing wonderful developments in the vaccine program and therefore it seems the end of this pandemic is in sight. With this in mind, we want to ensure that we do everything we can to protect our community until we have all been vaccinated and are able to gather again freely, moving slowly and safely we are aiming to have EVERYBODY safely together when we are able to be together freely.

### Risk Management

We are producing risk assessments for each activity we will be doing as a church and are including the use of the NHS matrix (as seen below) which uses a 5-point scale for consequence, and for likelihood. This will help us to more objectively decide which activities are appropriate at each stage and what we need to do to mitigate risk.

The consequences and likelihood figures apply to the risk before any measures have been put in place to mitigate this risk.

		Consequence				
		1	2	3	4	5
Likelihood	1	1	2	3	4	5
	2	2	4	6	8	10
	3	3	6	9	12	15
	4	4	8	12	16	20
	5	5	10	15	20	25

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### Consequence:

Consequence Rating	Descriptor	Description
1	No harm or near miss	Near miss or no harm caused by adverse event
2	Minor	Minor temporary harm (first aid)
3	Moderate	Moderate harm (medical treatment)
4	Major	Major harm (excessive injuries/RIDDOR reportable)
5	Catastrophic	Death

CURRENT Consequence Risk factor FEB 2021

	Consequence	Likelihood	Risk
Clergy:	4		
Volunteer:	3 - 4		
Congregation:	3 - 5		
Visitors:	2 - 5		

To get this answer, we need to ask 'what **could** the consequence be if I were to get Covid-19?'

When we think about answering this question we need to factor in

the age and health of those who may engage in the activities we are seeking to provide, as well as what the implications may be for others if those present contract Covid-19, such as thinking about those who live or are in a bubble with somebody who is vulnerable, and those who work with people who are vulnerable. We will also be factoring in the stage that we are at nationally with the vaccination program as that will lower the consequences for each group.

Our risk assessments will look at the risk for individual groups, specifically clergy, stewards and volunteers, congregation and visitors.

0-4	5-11	12-18	19 - 39	40 - 59	60 - 69	70 – 79	<80	Clinically Vulnerable
2	2/3	2/3	3	3	4	4	5	5

### Likelihood

Likelihood Rating	Descriptor	Description
1	Unlikely	Event could occur but improbable/doubtful
2	Low	Event may occur at some time but rare/exceptional
3	Moderate	Event could occur at some time- fairly likely
4	High	Event will occur in most circumstances- likely/probable
5	Certain	Event is expected to occur in all circumstances- no doubt

## **All Saints Church, Allesley**

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In this context likelihood is determined by a mixture of a number of things:

- Prevalence: Transition rates in the locality will be the key factor here.
- Variant: We are experiencing new, more transmissible variants.
- Numbers: The number of people you are mixing with multiplies the likelihood risk of coming into contact with someone with the virus.
- Time: The longer you are with people the higher the risk of transmission.
- Proximity: The closer you are to people the higher the risk of transmission.
- Protection: Mask wearing reduces the risks of transmission. If there are individuals who cannot wear a mask, there is an increased risk for them, and for those around them.
- Singing and loud speaking: These activities project water droplets and vapour further, which increases the risks of transmission. This is often combined with the increased risk from not wearing a mask.
- Location: being outdoors lowers the risk of transmission versus being indoors.

To determine the level of risk for each group, we will look at: consequence x likelihood

The risk assessment will then seek to lower the risk to each group as much as possible by taking appropriate measures, and these measures will be made public so those attending activities will know what is expected of them to ensure the risk level is made as low as possible.

This objective approach to assessing risk will also assist the Rector, Church Wardens and PCC in making wise decisions about which steps to take as we look at opening up church life.