

**Parish of Carrowdore – Christ Church**  
***PLEASE READ THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING RETURN  
TO 'IN BUILDING' CHURCH WORSHIP***



Dear friends,

I hope that you are all well and looking forward to returning 'In-building' Church Worship. We have all had to adjust to this very strange time; I hope that you have been able to join in with the online service each week.

The Northern Ireland Executive gave the go ahead for Churches to open from the 29<sup>th</sup> June for public worship, providing certain conditions are adhered to. We have received guidance from the Diocese, the wider Church and local government. We appreciate that all Churches will not open at the same time, but your safety is our priority.

We have been working hard to make the Church ready for service and you will appreciate that we have had to adjust the way we do things, in order to avoid undue risk and provide a comfortable setting for public worship that is as safe as possible.

We are pleased to advise that we plan to open our doors for public worship on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

We fully recognise that some people may not plan to return at this time and I continue to pray for all who are shielding or recovering from an illness which prevents you from attending Church. Please be assured that I will continue to provide online services for the foreseeable future. Please do not feel that you have to rush back especially if you or a member of your household are experiencing, or not yet recovered from, symptoms of Covid-19 or if you are in an at risk group.

**Guidelines for attending in-Church services:**

Everyone attending will be requested to complete a record of their name address, email (where appropriate) and telephone. This will be required in the event of a contact tracing process being required, should an attendee being tested positive for Covid -19. These details will be securely retained for 14 days in the safe unless otherwise required.

We will not be offering tea or coffee pre-service and we discourage the congregating in groups outside the Church building for any length of time before or after the service. Please wash your hands for 20 seconds before leaving for Church.

**When you arrive at Church:**

- The main entrance will be used. Doors will be opened at 11.15am
- Wardens will be at the entrance to assist you with any information or assistance you need. (Wardens may be wearing Face Visors for their and your safety)

- Everyone will be asked to sanitise their hands at the entrance (sanitiser will be available, you may prefer your own, if so you should bring with you). You are requested to keep a 2m social distance.
- You will be seated by a warden and we intend to fill up seats starting at the front to back. Please advise the warden if you require to sit at the back for health reasons. Seating will be clearly marked and a number of Pews will be closed off. Unfortunately seating will be limited to a maximum of 30 people, the doors will be closed when all seats are taken.
- Households can sit together.
- Please avoid touching surfaces apart from where you are sitting.
- The service will be conducted using the screen and will be shorter in duration; there will be no books in Pews. You may bring your own Bible or Prayer book if appropriate.
- All soft furnishings will be removed for ease of cleaning. You may bring a cushion which should be removed at the end of each service.
- As singing can spread Covid-19 it will not be encouraged for the time being. There will however be recorded singing.
- If anyone experiences symptoms of Covid-19 during the service, please inform the warden. The Jennings Room is designated as an isolation area.
- The offering will be taken as you leave, no collection plates will be passed around. As we encourage the use of standing order for giving, please speak to a Vestry Member to contribute this way. Your continued support to the Parish is essential & appreciated.
- Face coverings are not a requirement at this time, please follow government guidelines and feel free to wear a face covering if you so desire.
- At the end of the service we will exit row by row from the back pew first. Please do not delay your exit and ensure you keep a social distance. The Rector will not be at the door. If you require any Pastoral help please remain in your seat.

Thank you for your understanding and prayers while adhering to the guidelines. I know these guidelines will be strange and while be 'different' for some time, but we need to follow the guidelines/regulations and use the wisdom that God has given us. This is a working document and may be subject to change as and when the guidance is updated. We will inform you of any changes as they are made.

Yours in Christ,

The Rector & Special Committee of the Select Vestry