

Public Worship In Cheam Parish – What To Expect

We are delighted that we are able to open our churches for public worship on a limited basis in addition to the private prayer we already had planned. Please refer to the '[Latest News](#)' on our website for information on when and where services will be held and when our churches will be open.

What worship is permitted?

The government has permitted churches to open for public worship, subject to certain strict guidelines. The same basic principles for hygiene, physical distancing, and safety that apply to private prayer will apply to worship. There are additional guidelines for the administration of Holy Communion. Weddings, baptisms, and funerals are also permitted, following separate guidance.

Who is welcome?

Everyone is welcome to our services, although we will be operating a booking system to help us keep within our attendance constraints and maintain a record of who is there. To 'book' a place, contacts are as follows:

For Services at St Dunstan's

Please contact our Administrator Louise Page (office@cheamparish.org.uk or 07928 833324) by midday on Friday for Sunday services and by midday on Tuesday for the Wednesday services.

For Services at St Oswald's

Please contact Bryan Hopper, Churchwarden (bryan.hopper@btinternet.com or text to 07787 755142).

For Services at St Alban's

Please contact John and Carol Adams (020 8643 1406).

The over 70s and those with underlying health conditions are reminded that they are at heightened risk of serious disease. The decision to attend is theirs.

What will it be like when we arrive?

We have had to make some changes in our churches to make sure that everyone is safe, so it will look a little bit different.

- Please aim to arrive earlier than usual as it will take longer to ensure that hygiene and social distancing guidelines are followed.
- Enter by the main church doors, which will be open to allow air to circulate.

- It is government requirement that face coverings should be worn at all times in places of worship unless you have a valid medical reason not to do so. The only exception is to receive communion.
- We only have limited seating available in all our churches. If there are others before you, please wait patiently and maintain distance by using the markers on the ground.
- Please use the hand sanitiser which will be available as soon as you enter the building.
- Our churches will be supervised by volunteers who will show you where you should sit.
- Your name and contact details will need to be recorded by a volunteer.
- You will be given a 'seat used' card.
- When you are ready to leave, leave your 'seat used' card where you have been sitting.
- At the end of the service, please wait until a volunteer invites you to leave. Please leave by the main church doors, observing social distancing.
- Please follow the directions of our volunteers at all times.

What will the service be like?

- The service will be a Eucharist with a much-simplified order of service, similar to the one we have been using in our online services.
- Single use service sheets will be available. These should be taken home for recycling. Please consider printing your own service sheet at home or downloading it from the website on to a suitable device.
- Singing is not permitted.
- Refreshments are not permitted.
- Sharing the Peace is not permitted.
- We will not be taking a cash collection. There will be the opportunity for contactless payments at St Dunstan's only. There is also a 'giving' button on our website.
- Receiving Communion – see specific notes below.
- At St Dunstan's for the 9.30am service on Sundays, there will be a camera and computer equipment by the pulpit. Please stay behind the camera at all times. A 'holding screen' will be shown on the broadcast during the distribution of communion to guarantee privacy.

What will receiving Communion be like?

We will be able to hold the Eucharist once again and we will be able to distribute Communion in one kind to those attending our services.

We recognise that some people may feel uncomfortable about received Communion. Those attending should not feel obliged to receive the sacrament. We are, however, following guidance from the government and the Church of England to mitigate risk:

- Communion will be in one kind only. Only the president will consume bread *and* wine.
- The bread to be consumed by the congregation will remain covered until it is distributed and will be handled by the president only.
- The communion vessels will be handled by the president only.
- Only the bread and wine to be consumed by the president will be uncovered and spoken over during the Eucharistic Prayer.

- The president will sanitise their hands before the Eucharistic Prayer and before distribution.
- Each communicant will sanitise their hands immediately before receiving communion.
- Communicants should follow the instructions of our volunteers, who will tell them when they can leave their seats.
- Communion will be distributed standing at the bottom of the steps in front of the altar. Communion rails cannot be used.
- Social distancing should be followed at all times.
- The president will be unable to adhere to the two-metre guidance but will wear a face mask and visor for the distribution.
- The bread will be distributed in silence. The president will drop the wafers in the hands of communicants.

Will online services continue?

Our online services have been an important way of offering worship and staying in touch with people in the parish. We will continue to stream services on our YouTube Channel for the foreseeable future for those who are unable or unwilling to attend church. On the occasional Sunday when we are unable to stream services, we will provide some suggestions for finding online worship elsewhere.

Will I be safe?

We are following all the guidelines from the government and the Church of England to ensure that our churches are safe to use. If you are over 70 or your health means that you are in a particular vulnerable category, you should consider staying at home.

Anyone who is feeling unwell, especially if you have symptoms of Covid-19, must stay at home and remain at home. If you receive a positive test for Covid-19, you must inform the Rector immediately.

Are children welcome?

Children and families are very welcome to come and spend some time together, although we cannot provide any books or toys. Please bring your own. Family groups will be able to sit together. We are not offering Sunday School in church at present, although there are opportunities to join in one of our sessions on Zoom.

Will toilets and refreshments be available?

We are very sorry, but barring emergencies, toilets will be closed and we are unable to offer any refreshments.

*The Reverend Dr Nicholas Peacock, Rector
26th August 2020*