

*Sunday 30 January 2022
(amended 31 March)*

Dear Friends,

You will know that as of 27 January the Covid-19 restrictions have been relaxed. I just want to outline for you what that will mean for us as clergy and congregations.

Before I do so, let me assure you that I have considered the Church of England advice, published on 25 January, very carefully, and have discussed it with other priests and also our Rural Dean. I have also taken into account the fact that Omicron is still very much with us, and been mindful of just how ill it is possible to be with this variant. In the last three weeks I have seen both family and friends succumb to it and be very poorly. I am also mindful that we are still in that 'buggy' time of year and that people are often at a lower ebb in these early months of the year than later on. Therefore, from today until the end of March we will

- Continue to wear masks when moving around the church.
- Continue to hand sanitize on arrival at church and prior to receiving Communion.
- Not exchange the peace physically.
- Receive Communion in one kind only, one person at a time standing in front of the priest, as has become our habit.
- Continue with our one-way system as far as possible.
- Keep a sensible distance from other people at all times, including in our choice of seats.
- Clergy will continue to wear face masks at the Distribution of Communion, and the wafers to be distributed will remain

covered at all times whilst on the altar to avoid any risk of droplet contamination.

Singing is now a difficult issue, and there will be various feelings about it. I am therefore asking that **from 6 February** those who want **to sing without wearing a mask sit in the side aisles and (at St Paul's in the narthex if necessary)**. This arrangement may change, depending on what people choose to do!

With every good wish as ever,
Rev'd Sue