

What to expect:
A detailed explanation of joining communal worship at JK post-lockdown

As you consider returning to communal worship, please make yourself aware of the risks involved. Everyone is welcome to join us - coming to JK is a decision for each person to make based on their understanding of the risks, and people will come to different conclusions. To help you in your decision making I will pass on the advice issued by the Church of England: "Certain groups of people may be at increased risk of severe disease from COVID-19, including people who are aged 70 or older, regardless of medical conditions. Individuals who fall within this group are advised to stay at home as much as possible and, if they do go out, to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside of their household...Those who are considered to be extremely clinically vulnerable to COVID-19 will have been advised to shield and are currently advised not to meet more than one person from outside of their own household, and therefore not currently advised to attend places of worship. From Monday 6 July, those shielding individuals may choose to gather in groups of up to 6 people outdoors and form a support bubble with another household, they will therefore still be advised not to attend places of worship indoors."

There is no requirement to wear a face covering within the building as it will be possible to maintain a 2m distance at all times. Whether to wear a face covering or not is a personal decision to make.

We are operating a one way system within the church building. Please enter through the south door (the door opposite the hall) and exit via the north door (the door nearest Deans Lane).

As you approach the building if there are a number of people waiting to enter then please wait on the spaced markers indicating 2 metres.

Please do not enter the building if you have any of the symptoms of COVID-19: a high temperature, a persistent cough, loss of smell or taste. Return to your home, avoiding public transport if possible, and telephone 111 for further directions.

As you enter the building the stewards will need to take your name to comply with the Government's track and trace scheme. These names will be kept for 21 days and the steward will write your name to avoid sharing a pen.

As you enter please use hand sanitiser at the sanitising station to your right as you enter.

Within the building we are trying to keep a 2m distance between each other in social distancing, so please be respectful of this.

There will be no children's corner available during this period, and we will not be able to offer any Sunday School. Any children should be closely supervised and should remain in their seats throughout the service.

Toilet facilities can be used but you are asked to use them only if strictly necessary. Please wash your hands with soap and warm water both BEFORE and after entering the toilet.

Both before and after the service we have been asked by the Government not to congregate to talk. Please find a place to sit immediately, and we suggest that quiet prayer would be appropriate before the service. There will be opportunities to talk outside (weather permitting) after the service to catch up. The chairs have been separated by 2m, but because they are in groups of 3s and 4s this means that a household/family/bubble can sit together.

We have been asked to keep the service as short as possible, so there may be some elements not present. When we are able to we will introduce the missing parts once again.

At this stage congregational singing is not permitted, with the maximum allowed being a soloist when it is absolutely necessary. We will be having music, but please do not sing along, despite how unnatural this might feel.

We will be live streaming the service and so anyone in the sanctuary area of the church will be broadcast. It may take several weeks or trial and error before we are able to get the camera angles right and perfect the broadcast system.

When it comes to taking the collection, the collection plate will be located centrally to avoid many people handling the plate. When indicated by the steward, go up to the collection plate if you wish, using the markers on the floor to maintain a 2m distance. Alternatively there is a contactless giving point at the entrance, or else please sign up for the Parish Giving Scheme.

We will be able to share the bread of communion, although the common cup will continue to be suspended. The wafers will be handled with gloves and will remain covered as long as possible. When it comes to receive, please come up when indicated by the stewards, using the floor markers to maintain a 2m distance. We will not be using the communion rail but receive standing in a queue. The wafer is to be received by your hand (not directly to the mouth).

When the service ends please leave when directed by the stewards, moving directly to the exit door on the north side of the building. There will be no refreshments offered at this stage.

It is our hope that over time these restrictions can loosen and that we can return to a more familiar pattern of worship. At the same time however we are aware that the restrictions may need to be tightened and that we may lose the opportunity to gather together. In either case, we will adhere to the Government guidelines and appreciate the freedoms that we have.