

Dear Friends

Good news!! Following the Welsh Government's announcement that churches may re-open for communal worship [subject to strict requirements and risk assessment] I am writing to inform you that the risk assessment that was undertaken for St. Isan's church has been approved by Canon Stewart Lisk, the Area Dean, and Archdeacon Michael Komor.

We have therefore been able to plan for a service on 4 Sundays before the Reverend Christopher Smith takes up his position as Vicar of our parish. At the time of writing to you the availability of clergy to take our services is unknown but the Area Dean, the Reverend Canon Stewart Lisk is working on this. However, he has agreed to take our first service.

The risk assessment that has been approved is for a 10.30am service of Holy Communion at St. Isan. It is not possible to hold any other usual services at St. Isan because of the hygiene and cleaning regulations and the current absence of a designated Vicar.

Unfortunately, the bad news is that because of the 2-metre social distancing rule the capacity of the church is greatly reduced. We are now only able to accommodate a maximum of approximately 33 people at any one time [+ stewards]. The number varies slightly depending on the need for individual / paired or family seating. [paired / family seating should be from the same household]

To try to ensure we are as fair as possible in allocating the available seating we have set up a booking system which is outlined on page 3 of this letter.

Information points

1. Appropriate signage has been put in place and detailed practical arrangements implemented for social distancing and hygiene.
2. We have secured volunteer stewards to whom we are grateful as without them re-opening could not go forward.
3. The building has been aired, checked for general cleanliness and any maintenance issues. The water systems, electrical and heating systems have been checked. The fire risk assessment has been checked and all water containers emptied.
4. We have prepared for physical distancing, identified how people will enter and leave the building [enter via main door and leave via the south porch] and have signage in place for moving around once inside the building.
5. There are sufficient hand sanitiser stations.
6. When making your way towards church please keep to the required social distance [2 metres currently]

7. Please be prepared to socially distance as you queue to enter church as requirements may slow entry and doors will be pinch points.
8. On entry please sanitise your hands at the identified area.
9. It will be necessary to take your contact details for track and trace purposes [to speed this up and to avoid sanitising church pens for multiple use please use your own or use name and address stickers if you have them.]
10. You will be given a sanitised service booklet – please take this home with you to re- use when you come again. [if not taking a book home with you place it in the box identified so it can be sanitised for use by another person at another service]
11. Please follow instructions from the stewards who will show you to your seat.
12. If you usually give a cash donation it would be helpful if you used cheques. There will be a collection basket, but it will not be passed around the congregation.
13. Only go up to receive communion [bread only] when invited to do so by stewards.
14. Sanitise your hands before taking communion at the specified area.
15. Communion will be given at the chancel steps to assist in socially distanced movement around the church. Please follow the arrows or the instructions of the stewards.
16. Follow the clearly set out arrows
17. During the service there will be no singing or sharing of the peace.
18. Enter only via the main porch
19. Exit only via the south porch and sanitise your hands as you leave.
20. Toilet facilities will not be available.

Specific Service information

- The service is a shortened form - No Gloria or Creed
- No sharing of the peace
- No sharing of the common cup
- No altar parties
- No offertory procession
- No singing or playing of the organ
- No use of votive candles
- No after service food or drink

The wearing of face masks is not mandatory at the time of writing.

Please note that as well as the above requirements the clergy will also be required to take certain precautions during the service particularly in the preparation and cleaning of items connected to the sacrament.

Booking arrangements.

Please phone Marilyn on 029 2076 5398 between 5.00pm and 7.00pm on the Friday before the Sunday Service. As soon as the seating capacity is reached it will not be possible to accommodate further requests.

Given that demand is likely to be greater than we can accommodate it would be appreciated if you did not try to attend every service - do please give everyone an opportunity to attend.

- **Book on Fri. 14th August for the service on Sun. 16th August [Canon Lisk officiating]**
- **Book on Fri. 21st August for the service on Sun. 23rd August [celebrant unknown]**
- **Book on Fri. 28th August for the service on Sun. 30th August [celebrant unknown]**
- **Book on Fri. 4th September for the service on Sun. 6th September. [celebrant unknown]**

Finally, please bear with us as we work towards a new kind of normal for our services and be prepared for possible changes when Fr. Christopher starts the week beginning Sept 7th. This is a learning curve for everyone, and things may not run smoothly to start with.

Very many thanks in anticipation of your prayers, understanding and co-operation.