

Welcoming children back to CoVid-safe church ¹

As a church family, we are really looking forward to getting back to something like “proper church” from 6th September. An important part of that will be providing groups for children again. It will look a bit different, but the basics are the same - teaching the children about the Lord Jesus, from the Bible, in an engaging and age-appropriate way.

Our prayer is that each family will find “something for everyone” but if that is not the case for you, or you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, do speak to one of us. We are more than ready to adapt, as far as guidelines allow! One way we may need to adapt is if numbers in any age-group exceed what we are initially catering for. That would be a great problem to have, and we already have some ideas!

Please also let us know if you need to isolate as a family at any point. We'd like to keep in touch and suggest materials you might use at home.

Will my family be safe?

1. We will follow best practices for enhanced cleaning and sanitising.
2. Equipment such as furniture, toys and stationery will not be shared between children (unless they are siblings) during sessions. It will usually be quarantined for 72 hours before the session. Where that is not possible, it will be cleaned appropriately.
3. We will maintain distances on the stairs to and from school-age groups.
4. During the session, children will sit 2m apart. Leaders will maintain a 2m distance wherever possible.
5. Under 11's don't need to wear face masks, though they may if they wish. Leaders will wear visors, adding a mask if they need to approach a child.
6. We will not sing or play contact games.

Will my children enjoy themselves?

Read on to discover what is on offer for each age-group. Although we cannot sing or let the children run around, we have lots of action songs, craft, and active (but distanced) games in store. We will do all we can to make it different from school!

¹ This proposal has been developed by the church leadership team after consulting all relevant government and diocesan guidelines. It is also being submitted to the PCC for approval.

What do I need to do?

- a) **Please do not** come to church or send your child to Sunday Club if anyone in your family has any CoVid symptoms:
 - New continuous cough
 - Temperature
 - Loss of taste or smell
- b) Bring your child in clean clothes.
- c) Do not let your child bring anything into a group (e.g. coats or toys)
- d) If possible, avoid using public transport to come to church.
- e) Let us know if your child is allergic to any sanitiser products.
- f) If you have a school-age child, leave a phone number with us, and your phone switched to silent, and visible during the service, so that we can call you if your child needs you or is finding it too difficult to social distance.

Babies

The crèche room will be unlocked during the service for use by parents with babies in arms e.g. for privacy while breast-feeding or if the baby is very noisy. All toys will be removed and there will be distanced seats for three adults with their children. The service is relayed over a speaker to this room. **This room should not be used by mobile toddlers** - if your child is on the move but under 18m, please chat to us and we will work out together on a case to case basis where they will be happiest.

18m-3yrs (Tots) and pre-school children over 3 (Scramblers)

The guidelines state that all pre-school children must remain with their families in church. We are offering two ways for families to manage this:

- A. The west porch, as an extension of church, will be arranged with 6 individual distanced spaces, each for one adult and child. As shown in the first photo on the next page, the spaces will have a mat, furniture and toy box. Parents can go to this area when the Sunday Club children go out (just before the reading). The group leader, who will usually also be a parent of this age group, will stream the sermon using a phone and speaker. After the sermon, they will tell a Bible story to the children and may play a recorded action song. We will also aim to provide simple craft activities related to the story for the children to do during the sermon. If demand exceeds the space in the porch, there are other spaces within the church building that we can set up similarly.
- B. Alternatively, parents may choose to keep their pre-school children with them in the service. This is fine provided that the children maintain distancing. At St Anne's we understand that children are neither silent nor still by nature! If your children remain

in the main church area with you, please bring your own toys, books etc. and do not share them with any other children.



R-Y2 (Climbers)

Climbers will be downstairs in the crypt as usual.

1. The group will consist of at most 12 children plus 2-3 adults.
2. In general, we cannot allow parents to stay as this would exceed our group size limits. **However, do talk to us** about this if you foresee problems with your child coming down on their own. Also, we understand that some Reception children may need a few weeks to settle at school before they are ready to come to Sunday Club.
3. The children will sanitise their hands on arrival downstairs and before returning upstairs. We may also do distanced temperature checks.
4. As shown in the second photo., the children will sit at individual tables approximately 2m apart. They will have their own set of craft supplies.
5. We cannot sing or play contact games but will listen to a lot of action songs and use “actively static” games to keep them moving on the spot and engaged.

Y3-6 Trailblazers

Trailblazers will meet in the Gallery Room.

1. There is sufficient space for our usual number of Trailblazers, with two leaders, to be distanced in that room.
2. The children will sanitise their hands on arrival upstairs and before returning downstairs. Only children over 11 are required to wear a mask.
3. The children will sit approximately 2m apart. They will have their own set of stationery and craft supplies.