

# Guide to Baptisms at St John's during SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic

This document will be updated regularly as guidance from the government, Public Health England and Church of England changes



Following government lock down easing to allow baptisms in Churches, this document will outline the new limitations and procedures which must be followed for baptisms taking place inside the Church building.

**Limitation on Numbers** – Given pew layout and following guidance from Public Health England and the Church of England, the number of people attending a baptism is to be limited to the following:

- Member of Clergy (must attend)
- Baptism candidate (must attend)
- Members of the candidates household
- Prospective god parents
- Close family members
- Close friends may attend
- Total number of the above to not exceed 30 if in an independent service. If the baptism is within a regular Sunday service, the number is restricted by the capacity of the church.

**No person exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or loss of taste and smell) shall attend the baptism, nor those who are self-isolating, for example after being contacted by Track and Trace or if another household member has COVID-19 symptoms**

**Those who are extremely clinically vulnerable may attend, but it is at their decision and they do so understanding the risks.**

**Limitation on music** – Given guidance from Public Health England and the Church of England, hymns/anthems etc. cannot be sung – No singing is to be permitted as it poses extra risk of cross infection and would reduce the number of people who may attend

Our sound system, with CD player and Aux input is available for pre-recorded music but, again, no singing is to be done. Any CD's are to be given to member of Clergy before the day of the baptism so it can be disinfected for the member of Clergy to use. If using Aux input (i.e. from phone/mp3 player) it is the responsibility of the owner of the device to play the music at the appropriate times.

The Church is has WiFi and the ability to livestream services to those unable to attend, if you wish to stream the service yourselves, this is permitted.

**Procedure and rules for church visitors** – These are rules for all visitors entering the church building:

- The number attending and their household groupings are to be given to the church at latest, the day before the service. This will allow the church to be set up safely for that number
- It is advised that Orders of Service be digital, we can add it to our website on a link only accessible by those who have it. If physical Orders of Service are being used, they must be supplied to the Church at least one day prior to the baptism so they can be safely placed on pews to reduce chance of cross infection
- Face coverings are mandatory for all who enter the church building, the only exceptions being those younger than 5 and those with severe respiratory conditions
- All visitors should enter via the west door, the only exception is for wheelchair users
- Upon entering, all visitors must use the hand sanitising station to sanitise hands
- There is a one way system set up once in the church and the clergy member will tell visitors where to sit to maintain social distancing
- When leaving each household group should maintain social distance of at least 2m as they follow one way system out via north door

**Extra precautions** – should any person attending the baptism develop COVID- 19 symptoms within 72 hours of the baptism, the church is to be notified, via clergy, to allow for additional disinfection of the church building to protect other visitors.