

## Public Worship Protocol: Public Worship at St Marylebone Parish Church from 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021



St Marylebone  
Parish Church

Her Majesty's Government issued new Guidance for Places of Worship on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021. This guidance came into force on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Following earlier restriction, Places of Worship had reopened for public worship from 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

The number of individuals or groups permitted in a place of worship at any one time will be dependent on the size of the building. Limits for communal worship continue to be decided based on the capacity of the place of worship following an assessment of risk.

This protocol sets out the parameters within which public worship can continue to take place safely at St Marylebone Parish Church and is in accordance with the latest guidance issued by the Church of England and H M Government. These guidelines, designed to help keep people safe at St Marylebone Parish Church, will be kept under review.

Whilst Government guidance and advice is being constantly revised, it remains vital that all necessary hygiene precautions are maintained.

At St Marylebone Parish Church, this advice and guidance is interpreted as follows following appropriate Risk Assessments having been undertaken:

The Parish Church can host as many people as its risk assessment allows for, but people must observe hygiene and social distancing requirements.

1. All who attend public worship must be alert and vigilant and remain responsible for their own safety and the safety of others.
2. All who are present at acts of public worship must wear a suitable face covering from 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021 in accordance with the prime minister's directive of 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021. A face covering must cover the mouth and nose and fit well around the face.
3. The number of people permitted to attend public worship will be kept under constant review in line with the requirements of Her Majesty's Government.
4. The Rector, or his representative, reserves the right to not to admit people if a deemed-to-be safe number of worshippers is or is likely to be exceeded or if someone who is not exempted from doing so fails to wear a face covering in the required manner.
5. Everyone must respect a person's right not to be approached or their space encroached upon without invitation to do so.
6. Appropriate social distancing measures must be observed by all clergy, SMPC Team members and worshippers at all times.
7. Toilet facilities will be made available to worshippers whenever possible on Sundays, weekdays and during funerals, memorial services and weddings. Access may be limited because of building works.
8. Sidesmen and Welcomers will wear a face covering.
9. The parish church is adequately ventilated, and good ventilation will be maintained.
10. The Sunday 8.30 am Eucharist and the mid-week Wednesday at 1.10 pm Eucharist will be livestreamed via YouTube whenever this is possible and practicable. No individual will be filmed other than the officiating priests and the person reading the lesson or leading the intercessions.
11. A stringent hygiene routine will remain in place.
12. The Ciborium will be covered during the prayer of consecration.
13. Only the celebrant may drink from the Chalice.
14. Only bread will be administered by the priests. This will be done by placing the bread into the outstretched hand of the communicant using a pair of stainless-steel tongs.

15. The Peace will not be shared physically, but people are encouraged to acknowledge each other as fellow members of the Body of Christ.
16. Any paper-based material used in worship, must not be shared with others. If service sheets are used, these must be left behind and quarantined for at least 72 hours before their reuse.
17. All words for worship will be displayed on the AV screens.
18. All words used in public worship will be available on the parish church's website ([www.stmarylebone.org](http://www.stmarylebone.org)) for downloading onto smart phones or tablets.
19. All worshippers are encouraged to make their donation electronically, preferably via Standing Order and/or bank credit.
20. Sidesmen and Welcomers may have to refuse entry to latecomers and those whose participation in worship might cause the permitted number of worshippers to be exceeded.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Evans". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line that spans the width of the signature.

The Revd Canon Dr Stephen Evans, Rector of St Marylebone

**10<sup>th</sup> December 2021**