



Second National Lockdown: Thursday 5th November 2020

On Saturday 31st October 2020, the Prime Minister announced that a second national lockdown would begin on Thursday 5th November 2020.

Places of worship had reopened for public worship from 4th July 2020, but will now NOT be open for public worship from 5th November.

The new rules state:

Weddings, civil partnership ceremonies *will not be permitted* to take place except in exceptional circumstances.

Places of Worship may be open only when being used for:

- Funerals (with up to 30 people present).
- Broadcasting acts of worship
- Individual (private) prayer
- Formal childcare or where part of a school
- Essential voluntary and public services, such as blood donation or food banks
- Other exempted activities such as some support groups

This protocol sets out the parameters within which the above activities can 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.

From 8th August 2020, face coverings have been mandatory in all places of worship. Designated businesses and organisations (including Places of Worship) have been legally required to log details of visitors, worshippers and staff for NHS Test and Trace from Thursday 24th September. As a designated premise, St Marylebone Parish Church is required to display the official NHS QR code posters under law. When someone enters the parish church and scans the official site-specific NHS QR code poster, the parish church's locality information will be logged on the user's phone. The device will check if users have been at that location at the relevant time and if the app finds a match, users will get an alert anonymously with advice on what to do based on the level of risk. Whilst Government guidance and advice is being constantly revised, it remains vital that all necessary hygiene and social distancing precautions are kept in place in order to protect the NHS and save lives.

No one must mix indoors with anyone with whom they do not live (or with whom they have formed a support bubble) unless exemptions apply.

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

1. Wherever possible the NHS COVID QR should be used to check-in.
2. Appropriate social distancing measures must be observed by all clergy, SMPC Team members and visitors at all times.
3. All Team members, clergy and visitors must observe the strictest personal and community hygiene at all times and use the hand sanitiser provided on entering and leaving the building.
4. The organ may be used for practise and recording purposes, but not to lead acts of public worship (which are now *not permitted*).
5. All organists must observe the St Marylebone Parish Church formal Risk Assessments in place on the use of the organ and cleaning.
6. Worship will be broadcast in accordance with national guidelines through Virtual Church.
7. Young Church will be provided online through Virtual Young Church.
8. All members of the congregation are encouraged to continue making a regular offering/donation electronically, preferably via Standing Order and/or bank credit.

The Revd Canon Dr Stephen Evans, Rector of St Marylebone

5th November 2020