



ST. MARGARET'S
RAINHAM

How we are
reducing the risk
of **COVID-19** at
St Margaret's Church



➤ **During this unprecedented time, the Parochial Church Council have taken a number of steps to reduce the risk of COVID-19 at St Margaret's Church. It is important that you understand what we have done and play your part in making the church safe.**

If we say at St Margaret's that we love God, then we must also love those around us. God expects that of us. By loving others, we should show them respect and dignity. By adhering to the measures that have put in place shows we are conscious of others around us and loving them by keeping each other safe.

➤ **Information sharing**

We have put in place a dedicated page on our website that holds all information (including the risk assessment) relating to COVID-19 (<https://rainhamchurch.co.uk/information-on-the-building-opening/>). Please visit this page regularly as new information will be posted here as well as on our social media pages. There are also a number of posters within church which provide information and directions relating to your visit.

➤ **Social Distancing**

It is important that social distancing is used both outside as well as within the church. There will be signs outside to remind people to que safely whilst inside pews with red wood at the entrance should not be used. Please do not move the wood.

➤ **Handwashing**

There is hand sanitiser provided at the entrance and exit of the church as well as in the toilet. Please do not use any hand sanitiser near the candle station as this is a fire hazard.

➤ **Tissues**

Throughout the church we have placed disposable tissues. Please use these and dispose of used tissues in a safe way.

➤ **Cleaning**

There is a cleaning schedule in place for the Church building which complies to the advice given by the World Health Organisation. We have also taken the advice produced by the Church of England into consideration when developing the schedule. The building will be cleaned before each use and a record kept. The toilet will be cleaned on an hourly basis and recorded on the inside of the toilet door.

Once a week an external cleaning company will attend the Church building to undertake 'regular cleaning'. If we become aware that someone with COVID-19 has been in the church building, we will close the building for 72hrs and the company will attend and undertake a 'deep clean'.



And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister."



1 JOHN 4:21 (NIV)

> **Track and Trace**

On entry to the church building, there will be 'Track and Trace' forms for everyone to fill in. These will be kept securely for 21 days and then safely disposed of.

> **Community Behaviour Agreement**

The Parochial Church Council have produced a Community Behaviour Agreement which can be viewed on our website and a hard copy available from within the church building. This will be enforced so please take time to read it carefully. Breaching aspects of our agreement could put you in breach of the law and it is important for you to understand we are working closely with Kent Police and other enforcement authorities during this time.

> **Service Sheets**

During the pandemic, we will only be using the 'Home Worship' booklets which have been given to all those on the electoral roll. More copies are available within the church building but please take them home with you as they are 'personal issue'. They also have a section to help you pray during this time which you may wish to use when the church building is open for private prayer.

> **Vulnerable Groups**

For those over 70 years old or clinically vulnerable we strongly encourage you to follow the Government advice which includes 'staying at home'. There will be a Holy Communion Service every Tuesday at 10.30am exclusively for this group.

> **Those attending with a responsible adult**

We are reminding people who are bringing others that they care for to take care for anyone they are responsible for and ensure they comply with the safeguards that have been put in place.

> **Leaving the building**

To ensure social distancing is kept, there will be no refreshments available after services and people will be directed by stewards to leave one pew at a time so that there are no 'gatherings'.

> **Children's Groups**

As usual these will not meet during school holidays. They will resume in September.

> **Donations**

There will be no collections during services and people will be encouraged to use contactless payments wherever possible. Other ways to donate to the work and mission of St Margaret's Church can be found at:

<https://rainhamchurch.co.uk/giving/>



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