# Risk Assessment for Opening Church Centre Buildings to the Public

**Version Reviews**

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| Issue Date  | Version Number  | Issued by  | Checked by Health and Safety Officer |
| 13th July 2020 | 1 | Christina Beveridge Church centre manager |  |
| 25th July 2020 | 2 | Christina Beveridge Church centre manager | A picture containing object  Description automatically generated |
| 14th September 2020 | 3 | Christina Beveridge Church centre manager |  |
| 15th January 2021 | 4 | Christina Beveridge Church centre manager |  |
| 19th January 2021 | 5 | Christina Beveridge Church centre manager | A picture containing object  Description automatically generated |
| 20th May 2021 | 6 | Christina Beveridge Church centre manager | A picture containing object  Description automatically generated |

Churches and cathedrals are legally permitted to open for purposes of individual private prayer from 13th June.

House of Bishops guidance provides for churches to open for funerals from 15th June.

4th July Churches and Community facilities can open with certain exclusion to leisure/singing/musical instruments

Mission and Ministry with Children, Young People and Families in a Church setting 14th July

The Church of England COVID-19 Advice on Face Coverings 21st July.

Reviewed 15th Jan 2021 and again following updated guidance issued 19th Jan 2021

Step 3 17th May 2021 amendments made accordingly.

All Guidance via GOV.UK

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| **Church:****All Saints Church Centre** | **Assessor’s name:****Christina Beveridge/Paul Barnfather** | **Date completed:****20/05/21** | **Review date:****IF guidance changes** |

| **Area of Focus**  | **Controls required**  | **Additional information** | **Action by whom?** | **Completed – date and name**  |
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| **Deciding whether to open to the public** | Discuss with nearby venues and businesses to ensure that the timing and practical arrangements for using the church are compatible. | No immediate neighbour to worry about – we have own access – our own carpark. Queuing system to enter if required. |  | CB 15/1/21 |
|  | Update your website, A Church Near You, and any relevant social media. | WebsiteFacebook - video |  | CB/RK 15/1/21 |
|  | Consider if a booking system is needed, whether for general access or for specific events/services | Church services to be booked in via Reception@allsaints.church as required | CB/RK | CB 15/01/21 |
|  | If opening to tourists consider applying for the Visit Britain ‘Good to Go’ standard mark |  |  |  |
| **Preparation of the Church Centre for access by members of the public for any permitted purposes.** | Review C of E guide on cleaning church buildings. Complete the ‘cleaning’ section of this risk assessment (below). | Done | CB/AW | CB/AW 30/3/20 |
| A suitable lone working policy has been consulted if staff/volunteers are working alone. | We have a policy already in place and sent to staff as reminder | CB/AW | CB 15/1/21 |
| Buildings have been aired before use. | Weekly doors and windows have been opened | CB/AW | CB 30/3/20 |
| Check for animal waste and general cleanliness. | Mon- Fri everywhere has been checked | CB/AW | CB 30/3/20AW 6/7/20 |
| Ensure water systems are flushed through before use. | Weekly taps and dishwashers have been run. Toilets flushed daily Mon- Fri | CB/AW | CB 30/3/20AW 6/7/20 |
| Switch on and check electrical and heating systems if needed. Commission system checks as necessary. | All non-essential electrics have been unplugged PAT testing carried out June 20 | CB/AW | CB 30/3/20 |
| Make any temporary arrangements for people to wait or queue outside the building (taking into account any consequential risks arising from people gathering outside). | 2 metre markers on floorAlong marked footpath | CB | July 2020 |
| Doors and windows should be opened to improve ventilation. | Rooms to have windows opened as needed by each user. Raven Vent Axia to pull air in. | CB/User group leader | 20/05/21 CB |
| Remove Bibles/literature/hymn books/leaflets/cushions | Done | CB | CB 30/3/20AW 6/7/20 |
| Cordon off or remove from public access any objects or items (if they are liable to be touched or closely breathed on) | Done signs up and doors locked where they can be. | CB | CB 17/7/20 |
| Remove or isolate children’s resources and play areas | No toys available unless organised with CB | CB  | CB 30/3/20 |
| Walk through the church centre to plan for physical distancing in seats, including safe flow of visitors. Remember 2m in all directions from each person (or 1m with risk mitigation if absolutely necessary).  |  | CB | CB March –July20 |
| Seating  | Pews clearly marked.Each group must wipe all furniture used and leave down for us to then also clean and ensure good hygiene. | CB | CB 15/6/20 |
| Clearly mark out flow of movement for people entering and leaving the building to maintain physical distancing requirements. | Arrows on the floors to show direction to exits and also toilet facilities | CB  | CB 15/6/20 |
| Limit access to places were the public does not need go, maybe with a temporary cordon if needed. | Office closed and only 3 people at any one time. All other areas locked or signs up to say no access. | CB/AW | CB 20/05/21 |
| Determine placement of hand sanitisers available for visitors to use. | On all entrances and exits | CB/AW | CB 15/6/20 |
| Determine if temporary changes are needed to the building to facilitate social distancing | Canopy over fire exit in main hall as using as exit. | CB/AW | CB 15/6/20 |
| Put up notices to remind visitors about important safe practices e.g. no physical contact, practice hand washing, face masks etc. | Signs up everywhere. | CB  | CB March- July 20 |
| Ensure high-risk surfaces and touch points have been wiped with appropriate sanitiser spray or disposable wipes | All areas will be cleaned daily at least if not more frequently. | CB/AW/SF | CB 30/3/20AW 6/7/20 |
| Check that handwashing facilities have adequate soap provision and hand dryer | Done | CB | CB 30/3/20 |
| Where there are toilet facilities, ensure an adequate supply of soap and drying (hand dryer), and a bin is available. | Done | CB /AW | CB 30/3/20 |
| Ensure all waste receptacles have disposable liners (e.g. polythene bin bags) to reduce the risk to those responsible for removing them. | Done | CB/AW | CB 30/3/20AW 6/7/20 |
| Provide safe means for worshippers and visitors to record their name and contact details; retain each day’s record for 21 days. | Church has track and trace box.Centre users keep a register of each class for the purpose of track and trace. QR code for NHS Test and Trace app on display. | CB | CB 14/9/20 |
| Give due notice of the resumption of use of the building to neighbours, congregation and wider community, ensuring that visitors and worshippers will know what to expect when they come. | Emails/ notices/notice sheets/ Facebook ongoing | CB/HD/RK/MH/Church wardens | CB 15/6/20 |
| **Access to church buildings for centre users** | One point of entry to the church centre area of the building clearly identified. | Main Hall has own entrance and exit pointEagle Sparrow and Raven use Main entrance and Vestry door exitChurch uses Hoole road entrance – Exit via Tower porch. | CB  | CB 13/7/20 |
|  | Staggered entry times where possible for different user groups who maybe in the building at any one time. |  | CB | CB 17/7/20 |
|  | All group leaders need to do their own risk assessments for their activity to ensure they have thought through all the risks | No group resumes before this is done | CB | CB 17/7/20 |
| For supervised activities for children, numbers should be limited to the number of people who can safely socially distance in the venue in line with COVID-19 Secure guidance. Support groups that have to be delivered in person can continue with up to 30 participants where formally organised to provide mutual aid, therapy or any other form of support. | To be included in the relevant group risk assessment | CB |  |
|  | Hand Sanitiser on all entrance and exits | Wall mounted or on stands | CB | 17/7/20 CB  |
|  | Cleaner Sanitiser and Blue roll available in all rooms to ensure groups clean down all furniture used. Furniture to be left up. | All groups informed that they need to clean after use. | CB/AW | CB/AW 17/7/20 |
|  | Bins available in all rooms – emptied after each group. |  | CB/AW | CB/AW17/7/20 |
|  | TRACK & TRACE – each user group is responsible for taking details of those attending for the purpose of Track & Trace. | Church activities – co-ordinators to do same.QR code for NHS Test and Trace app on display. | CB | CB 29/6/20 |
| **Kitchen** | Staff only – not available for users until further notice unless CB has authorised. | Sign on doors to indicate No Access | CB  | CB 17/7/20 |
|  | Café to produce own risk assessment before commencing | Using Eagle and the main centre kitchen  | RC/CB | RC 23/9/20 |
| **Toilets** | Toilet doors fitted with foot opening device to limit handle touching | Doors can be wedged open on Ladies and Gents also to reduce touching | CB | CB 6/7/20 |
|  | Cleaned daily including restocking and bins emptied. |  | CB/AW | CB/AW 1/7/20 |
|  | Doors and windows opened to improve ventilation |  | CB/AW | CB/AW 1/7/20 |
|  | Put up notices to remind visitors about important safe practices e.g. practice safe handwashing, safe mask wearing, social distancing |  | CB | CB March – July 20 |
|  | Ensure an adequate supply of soap, hand dryer working, and a bin for waste. |  | CB/AW | CB 30/3/20AW 1/7/20 |
|  | Ensure all waste receptables have disposable liners (e.g polythene bin bags) to reduce the risk to those responsible for removing them. |  | CB/AW | CB 30/3/20AW 1/7/20 |
| **Corridors** | No stopping and talking in corridors due to enclosed environment | Signs up to indicate this  | CB | CB 17/7/20 |
| **Cleaning the church centre before and after general use (no known exposure to anyone with Coronavirus symptoms)**Advice on[**cleaning church buildings can be found here**](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/Keeping%20church%20buildings%20clean%20v1.pdf)**.** | If the church centre building has been closed for 72 hours between periods of being open then there is no need for extra cleaning to remove the virus from surfaces. |  |  |  |
| If 72-hour closure is not possible then check all cleaners are not in a vulnerable group or self-isolating. | Andy (AW) has shielded member at home | CB | CB |
| Set up a cleaning rota to cover your opening arrangements. | CB/AW to work through – a call to suitable persons when needed | CB |  |
| All cleaners provided with gloves (ideally disposable). | Yes | CB  | CB 30/3/20 |
| Suitable cleaning materials provided, depending on materials and if historic surfaces are to be cleaned. | Yes | CB | CB 30/3/20 |
| Confirm person responsible for removing potentially contaminated waste (e.g. hand towels) from the site. | CB/AW/SF | CB/AW | CB 30/3/20AW 6/7/20 |
| **Cleaning the church centre after known exposure to someone with Coronavirus symptoms** | If possible close the church building for 72 hours with no access permitted. |  | CB  |  |
| If 72-hour closure is not possible then follow Public Health England guidance on cleaning in non-healthcare settings. | [**Public Health England guidance** available here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings) | CB/AW |  |
| If the building has been quarantined for 72 hours, then carry out cleaning as per the normal advice on cleaning. | Advice on[**cleaning church buildings can be found here**](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/Keeping%20church%20buildings%20clean%20v1.pdf)**.** | CB/AW/SF |  |

Rooms

Church – capacity currently 50 households max or 80 people whichever is reached first

Limit doesn’t include staff

Raven – 12 People max (lack of suitable ventilation)

Sparrow – 8 People at 2m or 12 people at 1m plus extra precautions

Eagle – 20 People at 2m or 30 at 1m plus extra precautions

Main Hall – 40 people at 2m or 50 at 1m plus extra precautions