**What can you expect- coming back to Hadstock church in COVID days?**

It will be lovely to be back in church, but it is going to be strange for now. Eventually we will get back to normal but for a while we must do things differently for the sake of one another.

Please read this advice carefully

**Before you come**

* We would love to see you, but it is really important that you only come if you are feeling well. If you are feeling unwell, look after yourself by staying at home and in so doing, you will be looking after others.
* There will be no access to the Village Hall for toilets etc until further notice.
* Service booklets will be available on the allocated pews. Grapevines (with the notices and readings for the day) will be emailed in advance to the regular congregation members or can be found on the website of St Mary’s Saffron Walden ([www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org](http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org)) – please print out your own. Special service sheets will be circulated in advance by email. If you would like to go on the email circulation list, or need a copy posted, please contact [Paula]
* For normal Sunday services, we anticipate having sufficient seats available for you. There may be some special services where we will need to ask for booking in advance.
* You must wear a face covering in church

**Entering the church**

* Please enter by the North door keeping 2 metres away from other people. Wait by the sign in the porch until you are asked to enter. Do not touch the door yourself.
* You will need to use the hand sanitiser in the porch before entering. This is especially important if you wish to receive communion.
* Every church has those regulars who are well known in the community and it has visitors. We are obliged to ask people attending to provide their contact details. This is not compulsory but an opportunity will be provided to pride name and telephone number in the service. These details will be kept securely for 21 days and shared with NHS Test and Trace if we are asked to do so.
* You will be directed to a seat when you arrive [filling up first from the front back to the porch, and then from the back forward to the porch]. Please do not ask to sit in a different position.
* Please only sit on an allocated seat with a ‘Please sit here’ sign on it. The position of these has been carefully measured to ensure safe social distancing. Family groups can be accommodated but prior notice would be helpful so as to maintain distances to other members of the congregation.
* Please arrive in good time to enable seating and maintain an atmosphere of quiet reverence before the service begins.
* Please note that no singing is allowed at the moment. In some services, we may say the words of hymns
* There will be no offertory taken during the service. We encourage you to make your offering through standing order or direct debit or directly by Bank Transfer to…and [are currently investigating online giving]. If you wish to make a cash offering, please use the plate inside the church.
* The Peace will not be shared physically. We encourage you to stay in your place and to bow, wave and/or smile to those around you as a greeting of peace at this time.
* In the communion service the priest will take careful measures to ensure hand hygiene and will have the wafers covered with a linen cloth while saying the prayer of consecration over them.
* The priest alone receives the wine, and then distributes the bread.
* The priest will say the words of administration ( e.g. ‘The Body of Christ, given for you...’) once over the bread, before bringing it to the people. Communicants will receive it in silence at their seat. The priest who administers communion will wear a face covering or visor at the time of administration.
* Communion will be brought to you. You may sit to receive it. The wafer will be dropped into your cupped hands.
* We will, of course, respect the decision of anyone who does not wish to receive communion physically, but simply to attend the service as an act of spiritual communion.
* If you are not a communicant, the priest will give you a personal blessing in your place. Unfortunately, we are not permitted to lay hands on people’s heads in present circumstances.

**After the service**

* Much as we would like to chat and catch up, please save any conversations and catching up with one another until you are outside so that you do not hold others up at the door.
* Please leave quietly and quickly, pew by pew as directed, paying attention to the social distancing guidelines.
* The collection plates will still be available if you wish to make your offering now.
* Please leave by the route you entered..

This is going to feel strange for all of us so please bear with us and, if you are visiting, come back and see us when we can give you a proper welcome.

We will review this note in the light of experience.