

Church Services during Lockdown 3.0

A new lockdown was announced by the Prime Minister on the 4th January 2021, and unexpectedly, communal worship is permitted under this lockdown.

Unlike a year ago, we are now dealing with a COVID variant that is significantly more transmittable, and despite our churches being COVID-19 secure, any gathering of people poses a heightened risk of transmission or infection. We are particularly concerned that people, starved of social contact, might mingle and chat to one another before and after services, and in so doing, put one another at risk.

As Christians our behaviour needs to be guided by our faith. One of the most basic teachings of Jesus Christ was that all interpersonal ethical choices should be directed by the principle of loving your neighbour as yourself. In the context of COVID-19 this means avoiding any risks of transmitting the coronavirus to others. Furthermore, churches need to be safe places – not places where we put our health or lives in danger. But equally, as Christians we are called to worship God and we need to be spiritually replenished and encouraged, especially in such a difficult time.

Holding these principles together, **we strongly urge people to attend services online**, and will only make 10 seats available at selected services for those who believe that their mental and spiritual health would be significantly compromised by not attending a physical service. To attend a service physically, booking through Eventbrite (<https://rossparishes.uk/digital-services>) will be essential or please phone the church office on 01989 562 175. Those at services will be social distanced and no mingling or chatting will be allowed.

The following service arrangements will be in place from 7th January 2021:

St Michael and All Angels, Brampton Abbots No services until further notice

St Michael and All Angels, Walford
The church is open for private prayer daily
No Parish Eucharists until further notice
Family Zoom Services will continue

St Mary, Ross-on-Wye

The church is open for private prayer daily

Thursday 10 am Livestreamed Eucharist. Max 10 in church.

Sunday 8 am Livestreamed BCP Holy Communion.

Max 10 in church.

Sunday 9.30 am Livestreamed Benefice Eucharist

with Max 10 in church. Followed by Virtual Coffee -

<https://rossparishes.uk/digital-services>

Come As You Are Services - pre-recorded

Messy Church – pre-recorded/Zoom

Toast and Toddle – pre-recorded/Zoom

LEAF – pre-recorded/Zoom

Please note: All pre-recorded services will be available on the website (rossparishes.uk) and livestreamed services will be available on the Ross Parishes Facebook page or YouTube. If you are having trouble accessing any services online please contact mark@rossparishes.uk or the church office.

We are very fortunate to have the ability to livestream and pre-record services, and I thank all involved in bringing worship into the safety of our homes. The ministry team and I will do all we can to maintain contact with parishioners through phone calls, emails and Zoom calls, and will continue with pastoral care in every way we possibly can. Please do be in [contact with me](#) or the [church office](#) if you need any help of any kind.

God bless, and keep safe

The Rev'd Sean Semple

Rector, The Ross Parishes