

## Updated COVID guidance – 1<sup>st</sup> December

At St Nic's we recently relaxed our Covid guidance for Sunday services to allow for masked and non-masked zones in the church building. In the light of the Omicron variant and recent government announcements, we have felt it necessary to change our guidance once again. Under this new guidance **we ask people to wear masks throughout the church building.**

Our guidance for Sunday services is now as follows:

- We will have **two zones in church: a socially distanced zone and a non-socially distanced zone.** Everyone one in the socially distanced zone must wear a mask. We ask that everyone in the non-socially distanced zone also wears a mask, unless they have an exemption.
- The **nave and north aisles of church will be the non-socially distanced zone** (that is, all the central pews and the left-hand aisle as you enter church). There will be no social distancing in this zone. We ask that everyone in this zone wears a mask. We ask that you respect people's personal space and do not sit too close to people who may want to keep a small distance from others. If in doubt, ask them.
- The **south aisle will be the socially distanced zone** (that is, the right-hand aisle as you enter church). We will seat people in alternate pews. Everyone one in this zone must wear a mask.
- Before the service, everyone will **enter church through the west door.** However, please respect people's space as they arrive and do not congregate in the tower or back of church before the service. Once the service has started we will close the west doors (to keep the church warm) and ask people to enter through the south door.
- At the end of the service, **those in the south aisle/socially distanced zone will exit through the south door,** keeping their masks on and maintaining social distancing. **Everyone else will leave through the west and north doors.**

Once again, we ask that you extend much grace to each another as we adjust to these new guidelines. It is certainly disappointing to have to increase restrictions once again. However, we have to adjust to changing circumstances and to enable a variety of people to attend our services onsite – especially as Christmas approaches. Of course, our excellent livestream continues, and we know that many people will continue to join us online over the coming months.

We will continue to review our guidelines. As always, feedback is welcome.