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Dear Fathers and Deacons,

I am pleased to attach herewith some Covid Guidance provided by the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales.

From 27th January 2022, a number of Covid measures will be lifted. Whilst face masks will no longer be legally mandated in places of worship, I strongly urge that we continue to encourage parishioners to wear face coverings for the protection of others. This is particularly relevant during congregational singing.

There is now no formal requirement for social distancing in our churches. However, I am mindful that this continues to be an area of anxiety for some parishioners and would ask parishes to consider some provision around this.

Please note that the following practices can now resume:

- The use of hymn books, missals, etc;
- The filling of holy water stoups, renewed weekly as a minimum;
- Prayer of the faithful;
- Sign of peace.

Holy Communion will continue under one kind only.

For the safety of all the following good practices are strongly recommended:

- Sanitising hands on entering and leaving church;
- Encouraging the continued use of face masks;
- Ventilating buildings well;
- Maintaining usual forms of church cleaning.

Social activities can take place subject to normal Health and Safety risk assessments. Home visits can continue, with an emphasis on Covid awareness, including the recommendation that those going into the homes of parishioners should take regular Lateral Flow tests. Anyone who is displaying symptoms of Covid should be reminded to stay at home.

With every Blessing,

+Richard