

Coronavirus: Advice from the Bristol Diocese

Specifics for churches

Alongside the general public health advice, as churches we have some particular practices, specifically:

Holy Communion

As the sacraments are physically ministered it's sensible to take physical care. As well as the specific concern about Coronavirus, this advice is generally applicable for all infectious disease.

1. **Wash Hands**

Priests presiding at the Eucharist, communion administrators and servers are reminded to wash hands. We strongly advise the use of hand sanitizers immediately before the Preparation of the Table and Eucharistic prayer.

2. **Do not intinct**

Because hands can be as much a source of pathogens as lips, intinction is no safer than drinking and can introduce germs into the cup. Intinction (dipping the bread into the wine) can also threaten those with certain immune or allergic conditions. For instance, those with gluten intolerance for whom traces of gluten can be hazardous are at greater risk when other communicants have dipped their communion wafer into the wine. Ensure purificators are used to wipe the chalice thoroughly after each communicant. Silver chalices are best as they are made of non-porous material and have anti-microbial properties.

3. **Consider receiving Holy Communion in one kind**

It is Anglican teaching that to receive the sacrament in one kind only (i.e. just the bread) is to receive the sacrament in its entirety. The celebrant should always receive from the Chalice. Should a communicant feel ill or not wish to drink from the chalice then he or she ought to receive the consecrated bread alone. There is no need at this stage to cease offering the chalice.

4. **The Peace**

At this time there is no need to refrain from sharing the Peace. Possibly further advice will need to be given were the virus to spread widely in the UK.

5. **Visiting**

Pastoral visitors to homes and hospitals should observe all precautions in personal hygiene before and after such visits.

Spring Programme



8th Mar **Old Town Partnership Birthday Service** in Christ Church on Being an Eco-congregation with the Revd Mark Siddall

The Story of Creation

15th Mar The King's Dream

22nd Mar **Mothering Sunday**

An Angel visits Mary

29th Mar Baptism and Temptation

5th Apr **Palm Sunday** Jesus arrives in Jerusalem

8th Apr **Organ Recital** 12 noon simple lunch followed by 1pm recital performed by our director of music, Tim Eyles

9th Apr **Maundy Thursday** 7.30pm **Agape Celebration** at Bath Rd Methodist church

10th Apr **Good Friday** 12noon - 3pm

Theme: The Journey to the Cross at Christ Church with Revd Josette Crane (Methodist Minister)

This three-hour service will be constructed in sections of 30 minutes each of which will end with a hymn for congregational singing.

Come and go as you wish, if possible, on the hour or half hour.

11th Apr **Easter Eve Ramble**

12th Apr **Easter Day**. The Empty Tomb

5.30am Partnership Easter celebration at Holy Rood on the lawns followed by a BBQ.

19th Apr The Road to Emmaus

26th Apr Doubting Thomas

11.30am **APCM** in Christ Church