

# Omicron Variant of Covid 19 Virus Policy Document

St Clements tries to maintain the highest standards possible in regard to public health and Covid 19, so that worshipping members of the church can feel safe to worship.

Due to the fact that the new variant is more transmissible and that there seems to be concern about how ill it will make people who catch it, and given the hospitals are already at capacity in the local area, it was thought important to have a clear policy for the parish.

## **At present**

Most of the church:

- 1, Masks to be worn moving about the building
- 2, Hands and surfaces to be sanitised
- 3, One way system to be observed
- 4, All pews available, with option to refrain from sharing.
- 5, Cantor behind screen

Lady Chapel:

- 1, Masks to be worn
- 2, Hands and surfaces to be sanitised
- 3, Social Distancing.

Capacity set at 250.

Pastoral Care:

Visitor to:

- 1, provide clear lateral flow test.
- 2, those being visited to give informed consent.

## **Special Christmas Services**

Large gatherings pose a greater risk of transmission.

To keep everyone safe.

- 1, Masks to be worn (including singing in congregation)
- 2, Hands and surfaces to be sanitised
- 3, One way system to be observed
- 4, No refreshments afterwards
- 5, Stewards to assist people.
- 6, capacity set to 250 (no use of South Aisle)

## **Future possible steps**

Depending on the government's advice, the stages of measures to be followed are deemed likely to be, as severity and numbers of infections increases.

### **Stage 1**

- 1, **Masks to be worn all the time.**
- 2, Hands and surfaces to be sanitised
- 3, One way system to be observed (and front and back pews to be roped off to decrease casual contact).
- 4, **No refreshments after services.**
- 5, **Capacity set at 200.**

### **Stage 2**

- 1, Masks to be worn at all times.
- 2, Hands and surfaces to be sanitised
- 3, One way system to be observed
- 4, **Every other pew available**
- 5, **No processions, 4 servers & tray serving.**
- 6, No refreshments after services.
- 7, **Capacity set at 100.**

### **Stage 3**

- 1, Masks to be worn at all times.
- 2, Hands and surfaces to be sanitised
- 3, One way system to be observed
- 4, **Every third pew available**
- 5, **No congregational or choral singing, cantor & one server.**
- 6, **Capacity set at 50.**
- 7, No refreshments after services.

We hope you understand the need for these measures.

Fr Clive - Parish Priest

The Wardens

Dr Marcus Pittman (Respiratory Physician)