**Holy Rood, Packington**

**RISK ASSESSMENT – PUBLIC WORSHIP AND PRIVATE PRAYER**

**This Risk Assessment is based upon guidance available as at August 2021, and practice will evolve as national and diocesan guidance allows, and the current state of play regarding the Covid 19 virus. As a PCC we aim to minimize risk, as much as is reasonably practicable in a constantly changing situation, whilst recognizing we cannot entirely remove it. Our assessment of risk is based on**

**Location - village church, with minimal visitors from beyond the village or congregation**

**The demographic of our local population, recognizing that many of our congregations and those visiting church may fall into the Extremely Vulnerable and Vulnerable groups, therefore potential impact may be high.**

**The prevalence, of Covid 19 in the immediate and neighbouring communities appears to be low.**

**Therefore our overall assessment of risk at this point is medium with controls in place. If this changes, prevalence increases, or volunteers become unavailable then our approach will be revisited.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Risk** | **Level of Risk** | **Control Measure** | **Risk after Control Measure** |
| Lack of Social Distancing | Medium | * ENTRY DOOR - south door be used (not normal north door) to minimize need to steady oneself by holding on. Doors to remain open - to minimize contact with surfaces * Sanitizer at entry / exit point * Signs at door to sanitize hands * All are asked to respect the social distancing needs of others * All are asked to wear face coverings and definitely when singing * No sidesmen. Only warden to touch lights, heating etc. switches. * Collection by plate at entry or exit. * Service sheets to be available, but not to be handed out. * No physical sharing of the peace * Communion to be taken in line with current guidelines whic is bread alone * Sanitiser to be used before receiving bread | Low |
| Infection from touching physical surfaces | Low | * Disinfection/ cleaning of frequently touched surfaces after a service * Sanitiser at entry and exit points * Magazines can now be left out along with prayer leaflets etc in prayer corner * Access limited to south door to avoid the need to hold on to move down stairs. * Brass and silverware to be put out and returned by one person only. * Ensure as much ventilation as possible * Hymn books and service books can be used and then to be left untouched between services. * Service sheets for baptisms will not be used for at least a month between services. * Lectern bible and pew bibles to be reinstated. * Those who count the collection to sanitize, wash their hands after counting. | Medium to low |
| Use of toilet | Low | * Sanitser outside WC with notice to use before entering WC * Notice to remind to wash hands and then to sanitize hands again on exit * Use hand drier and not towels or paper towels * WC to be cleaned after service if used | Low |
| Emotional Distress including Anxiety and those who may be coming to terms with difficult bereavement | High | * Those shielding and at risk not encouraged to attend. * Emphasise no one with symptoms to attend. (signs to that effect) * All to show sensitivity to where others find themselves after Lockdowns | Medium |
| Refreshments | Medium | Refreshments can be served subject to:   * Sanitising all surfaces where food is served and tables where people sit before and after the event * Those serving to wear face coverings and to ensure their hands are regularly washed/sanitized * Ensure that crockery and cutlery are washed before and after use * Seek to ensure social distancing is respected | Low |
| Cleaning of Church | Medium | * Major cleaning to take place no less than 72 hours from services. | Low |
| Private prayer and visiting | Medium | * Church to be open each day | Low |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Emergency Situations (ill health) | Medium | * Provision of one set of PPE for use if contact absolutely necessary. * Emphasize no one to go to others’ assistance, but to call 111 or 999 as appropriate. * Stay at 2m distance | Low |
| Emergency situation (fire) | Medium | * Follow fire evacuation procedure | Low |
| Attender subsequently testing positive and contact tracing necessary. | Medium | * Warden or appointed person to list attendees * Ensure that anyone notified by Test and Trace that contact has been made follows current government guidelines for testing, now that isolating for the double vaccinated is not required | Medium |

**RISK ASSESSMENT: GENERAL**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Risk** | **Level of risk** | **Control measure** | **Risk after control measure** |
| Infection after known exposure to someone with Coronavirus symptoms | High | * If possible close the church building for 72 hours with no access permitted.I * f the building has been quarantined for 72 hours, then carry out cleaning as per the normal advice on cleaning. * If 72-hour quarantine is not possible then follow Public Health England guidance on cleaning in non-healthcare settings. | Medium |
| Infection following general use of church | Medium | * Check all cleaners /open & closers are not in at risk groups or protecting someone who is. * All cleaners provided with gloves (ideally disposable) to protect their skin from exposure to cleaning materials. * Suitable cleaning materials provided * Air the building where possible by having all doors open whilst blocking access through north door, keep inside doors open while building is closed. | Low |
| Infection from small groups meeting in church | Medium | * Ensure appropriate distancing * Wearing of masks where felt appropriate * Ensure follow guidance above is followed * Seek to ensure good ventilation | Low |