

The Prime Minister has said that tomorrow, Monday 19th July, will be Freedom Day, but as ever he is totally wrong. We will not be free of the Covid-19 virus until it mutates itself into something that is harmless. Therefore, we must continue to take precautions to avoid the spread of this virus. As Christians we must have in the forefront of our minds and actions the virtues of Charity, Justice and the Common Good. With these virtues in mind therefore, and taking what advise is to hand from the Church of England Recovery group we at St. Martin's will as from next Sunday worship in the following ways:

- We will continue to observe the hygiene rules that we have been using heretofore; washing hands, sanitizing hands, not shaking hands etc. cleaning the Church after worship.
- We will continue to enter Church by the west door and leave by the north door.
- We will continue to observe the demands of social distancing.

- Face Masks: I think it is reasonable for us to say that as long as face masks are required in shops we need to continue to use them here in the enclosed space of Church.
- We will sing hymns from next week. The Cantors will obviously lead us in this, but as the congregation feels able, and this is a decision for you individually, so we will sing.
- Similarly, those parts of the Liturgy that we would ordinarily sing as a congregation, The Kyries, the Gloria, the Gospel Acclamations, the Sursum Corda, the Sanctus and Benedictus, the Mystery of Faith, the Great Amen and the response to the Dismissal, the Angelus, can be sung by all following the Cantors.
- During the singing please continue to wear face masks.
- Holy Communion will be distributed in the way in which we have been doing since we were able to open, that is in one kind, the Sacred Host, into the hands from the Chancel step.

- The Common Chalice of the Precious Blood of Our Lord will not yet be restored. We should remember that the fullness of the Holy Sacrament is contained in each element therefore we will not be deprived of the full sacramental effect of Holy Communion.

We are still living with the virus, and even if we have been vaccinated the Common Good would seem to demand of us as Christians that we in Charity maintain our vigilance in the face of the virus.

The Churchwardens and I will continue to monitor the situation and we would be grateful for any comments or thoughts or news that we may have missed.

God Bless you all.