

Coronavirus COVID-19

Current Government advice is that individuals should follow good hygiene practices including:

- carrying tissues and using them to catch coughs and sneezes, and binning the tissue;
- washing hands with soap and water (for 20 seconds – about the time it takes to pray the Lord’s Prayer!) or using sanitiser gel to kill germs



In addition, please also note the following guidance from the Church of England.

- If you have coughs or sneezes, do NOT shake hands at the Peace and please limit yourself to the bread alone – do NOT take the wine at Holy Communion. This is okay! In some parts of the worldwide Church it is quite normal to receive Communion in just “one kind”.
- For the time being it is still okay to shake hands (eg at the door or at the Peace) as long as you are comfortable with doing this, however if you would rather not, or you feel unwell then we suggest something like words of greeting and a smile or the “elbow bump” would be a good alternative. As always, please be sensitive to those around you and never force them to hug/kiss/shake hands if they are not comfortable with this.
- You should notice that the clergy and those who assist with the chalice are being more careful to wash their hands after the Peace – before they handle the bread and wine.
- New advice received says that people should NOT receive the wine by intinction. (This is the custom of receiving the bread then dipping it in the chalice.) It represents an infection route (from the hand) as well as a risk to those with certain allergies.

It remains true that precious metals (like the silver that chalices are made of) and alcohol (as contained in the wine) are proven to fight all sorts of infective agents. For this reason, sharing the chalice is not thought to present an unacceptable risk at this time.

This policy is based on the latest advice available (Thursday 5th March) but it may be updated in the future.

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