

Guide to Weddings at St John's during SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic

This document will be updated regularly as guidance from the government, Public Health England and Church of England changes



Following government lock down easing to allow weddings in Churches again, this document will outline the new limitations and procedures which must be followed for Weddings taking place inside the Church building.

Limitation on Numbers – Given pew layout and following guidance from Public Health England and the Church of England, the number of people attending a wedding is to be limited to the following:

- Member of Clergy (must attend)
- Bride & Bridegroom (must attend)
- 2 Witnesses (must attend)
- Wedding Verger (must attend)
- Photographer – see end for special note
- Organist
- Close family members
- Close Friends
- Total number of the above to not exceed 30, depending on size of household groups (fewer larger groups are easier to safely fit in the church), and should be in as large household groups as possible
- Bell ringers do not count towards the total unless they are also attending the service

No person exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or loss of taste and smell) shall attend the wedding, nor those who are self-isolating, for example after being contacted by Track and Trace or if another household member has COVID- 19 symptoms

Guests who are extremely clinically vulnerable may attend, but it is at their decision and they do so understanding the risks.

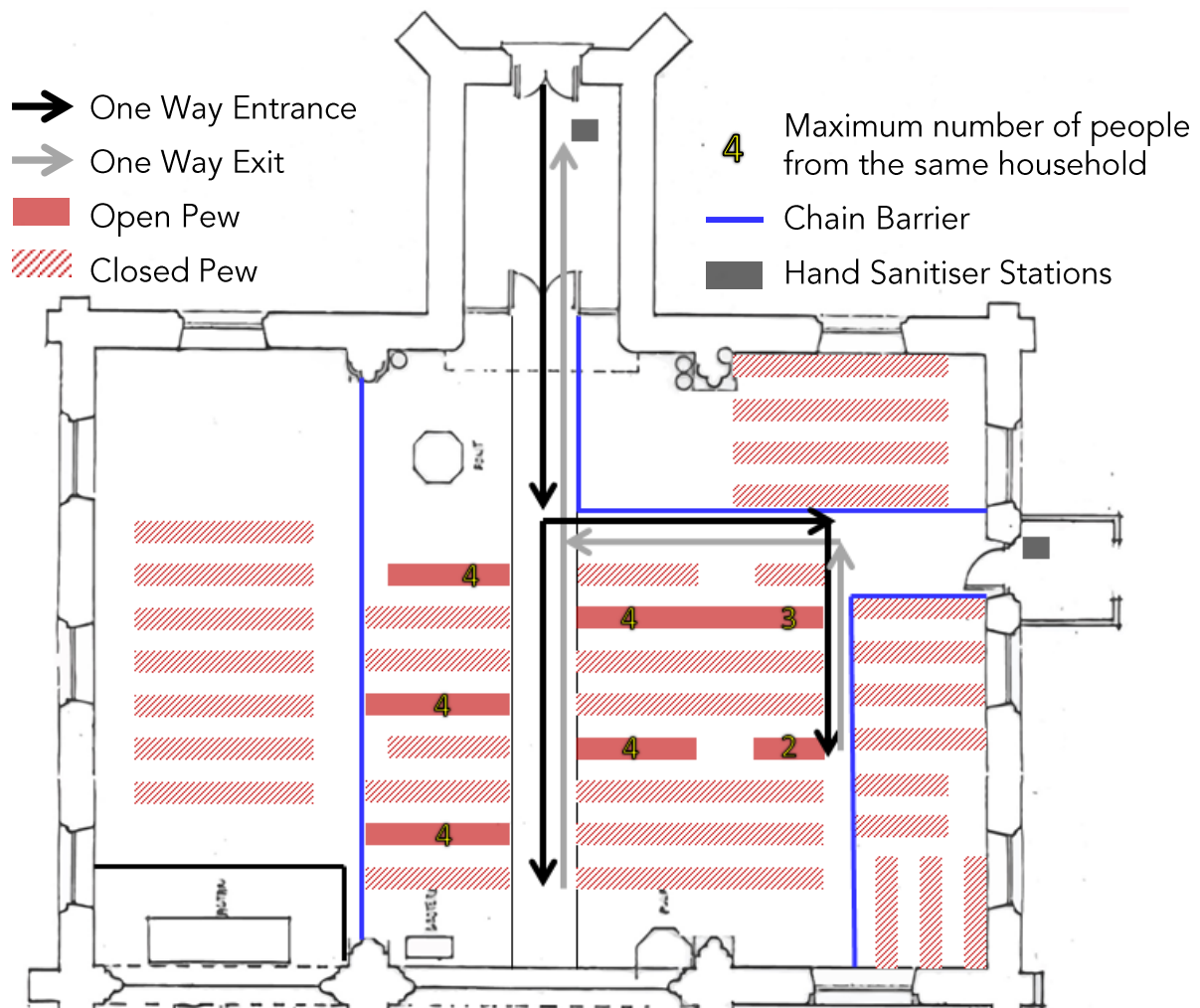
Limitation on music – Given guidance from Public Health England and the Church of England, hymns/anthems etc. cannot be sung – No singing is to be permitted as it poses extra risk of cross infection and would reduce the number of people who may attend

Our sound system, with CD player and Aux input is available for pre-recorded music but, again, no singing is to be done. Any CD's are to be given to member of Clergy before the day of the wedding so it can be disinfected for the member of Clergy to use. If using Aux input (i.e. from phone/mp3 player) it is the responsibility of the owner of the device to play the music at the appropriate times.

The Church is in the process of getting WiFi and the ability to livestream services to those unable to attend, In the meantime if you wish to stream the service yourselves using mobile data, this is permitted.

Procedure and rules for church visitors – These are rules for all visitors entering the church building:

- The number attending and size of household groups must be supplied to the member of clergy at least the day before the wedding. This will allow us to arrange pews so those attending can be as close as possible, while maintaining safe social distance
- It is advised that Orders of Service be digital, we can add it to our website on a link only accessible by those who have it. If physical Orders of Service are being used, they must be supplied to the Church at least one day prior to the wedding so they can be safely placed on pews to reduce chance of cross infection
- Face coverings are mandatory for all who enter the church building, the only exceptions being those younger than 5, those with severe respiratory conditions, and the bride and groom
- All visitors should enter via the west door, the only exception is for wheelchair users
- Upon entering, all visitors must use the hand sanitising station to sanitise hands
- The Wedding Verger will tell guests where to sit on entry
- If the bride is to be 'walked down the aisle' she should only be accompanied by a member of her household, while bridesmaids should be careful to observe physical distancing unless also from the same household
- When leaving each household group should maintain social distance of at least 2m as they follow one way system out via north door



Extra precautions – should any person attending the wedding develop COVID- 19 symptoms within 72 hours of the wedding, the church is to be notified, via clergy, to allow for additional disinfection of the church building to protect other visitors.

Wedding Photographer – Should you wish a wedding photographer, please be aware that they must adhere to 2m social distancing. If they are witnessed breaking social distancing they will be asked to stop and must leave.

We understand that this joyous demonstration of your love, maybe different from what you had planned. Here at St John's we offer you our sincerest hope and prayers for your life together. Know that this day is just the first of your married lives. Should you ever wish to have a service of blessing when we are able to fill the church with your loved ones and friends, we would love to have you use St John's.