

## **Covid guidelines for the use of church buildings,**

### **Parish of the Ascension, August 2021**

With the easing of Covid restrictions in England, the use of our church buildings by groups or for events poses a number of issues for the parish as 'venue managers'. Although the Government advice is now permissive of most activities, there are still precautions to be taken to help reduce the transmission of the virus. The pandemic is not over, we have simply moved onto the next phase and as such we need to consider the safety and comfort of those who use our buildings for worship and for other activities. Each of our three churches are different in terms of space and facilities but outlined here are some general considerations about venue use.

Ultimately, the permission comes from the incumbent and will be based on and overview of the safety of **all** those who use and care for our buildings.

- We will give preferential consideration to those groups and individuals with whom we have already developed a relationship through previous use of our buildings.
- All groups and activities need to consider and write a risk assessment for the activities they are planning and how the organisers will mitigate the risk to the participants i.e. capacity, ventilation, cleaning, stewarding etc. There should be a named individual with the responsibility for the activity/event.
- No activity can start before the parish has seen that risk assessment and given its permission. We may ask for changes in the activity/event if we feel this is needed to improve the safety for participants and for those who will use the building afterwards. Extra charges may be imposed for cleaning and clearing up.
- We reserve the right to refuse permission for an activity or event to take place and can ask for activities/events to be cancelled if the Covid situation changes nationally or locally, especially as we enter the winter.