

All Saints' Thornton Hough

Choir – returning to singing (Version 1)

Following advice from the Church of England issued on August 17th (and updated on 20th), choirs may once again sing at public worship. This is now possible because of updated advice from the government about the performing arts and public worship (issued on 13th and 14th of August).

There are some requirements about how choirs can return and this note sets out what we propose to do at All Saints' to ensure that we keep everyone as safe as possible.

At present members of the congregation are not permitted to sing.

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) has provided advice on their website.

<http://www.rscm.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/FAQs-re-Resumption-of-Singing.pdf>

<http://www.rscm.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Risk-assessment-introduction.pdf>

<http://www.rscm.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Risk-assessment-template.pdf>

This includes a risk assessment which has been completed for All Saints' – and this will be available on the church website. Following the completion of the risk assessment, the code of conduct set out below has been produced. You are asked to read and review this, and to follow the advice it contains.

The seating arrangement for the choir will be critical in ensuring that we are all kept as safe as possible.

General

1. Please do not come along to a service or a practice if you are unwell. Please do not come if you have an ordinary / common cold or bad throat. If you have Covid-19 symptoms you must not attend. This is for the safety of all members of the choir.
2. Please use the hand sanitiser as you enter and leave church.
3. Seating for the choristers will be arranged to maintain social distancing within the choir and with the congregation. This is likely to mean you are not sitting in your "usual place" and you are asked to show flexibility in this matter.
4. Please always try to observe social distancing.
5. Music will be given out at practices and music for the following Sunday service should be left on your place at the end of practice. The Director of Music, wearing rubber gloves, will either hand out the music to each person or place the music on the choristers' seats before the practice. This will be collected by the Director of Music (DoM), wearing disposable gloves, and stored. It will be placed on your seat by the DoM (again wearing disposable gloves) before the service. At the end of the service, please leave your music on your seat; the "gloved" DoM will return this to the music / library and boxes.
6. Choir members should use their "usual" hymnbook and music given out at practice. No other music will be needed. Music folders should not be used. You will not need anything else.
7. You should please bring a pencil to rehearsals and services and take it home with you after the event.

8. Choir members must wear face coverings at all times in church (unless they are medically exempt from wearing face coverings). Face coverings should be removed for singing and put in place at the end of the musical item.
9. When singing, please face in the direction advised by the DoM; this is to minimise the direct transmission of “droplets”.
10. The choir will not be robed. (The choir vestry is too small to enforce social distancing).
11. You are asked to complete a track and trace form for each practice and service. These will be handled in the same way as forms used at services by the congregation. They will only be given to UK Track and Trace if requested by Track and Trace and will otherwise be destroyed within 21 days of the service or practice.

For services

1. Choir members must come into church via the choir vestry door and go straight into church and sit in their allocated seat.
2. Choir members should leave church via the choir vestry at the end of the service.
3. Please do not congregate inside the vestry before or after services.
4. An offertory basket will be placed in the choir vestry for members of the choir who wish to place their offering on the “open plate”.
5. Please sit quietly in your place before the service begins.
6. An order of service will be provided for each service. Please take this away with you when you leave church.

For practices

1. Choir members should come into church via the main church door and sit where directed. They should use hand sanitiser on arrival and on departure.

IS/20th August 2020.