**Our Lady of the Assumption Lyndhurst St Theresa of the Child Jesus Totton**

**Risk assessment** Lifting restrictions 19th July 2021 (version 1)

**Our primary aim is to keep all safe as best we can who use our churches**.

**Most legal restrictions to control COVID-19 have been lifted at step 4. This means that:**

**There are no longer restrictions on group sizes for attending communal worship. COVID-19 has not gone away, so it is important to remember the actions we can take to keep ourselves and others safe. Everybody needs to continue to act carefully and remain cautious.**

**However, to minimise risk at a time of high prevalence, we should limit the close contact we have with those we do not usually live with. This includes minimising the number, proximity, and duration of social contacts. We ask you not to gather in church to socialise after Mass.**

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| **Churches:**  **Our Lady Lyndhurst.**  **St. Theresa’s Totton.** | **Assessor’s name:**  **Stephen Short** | **Date completed:**  **19/7/2021** | **Review date:**  **19/8/2021** |

| **Area of Focus** | **Controls required** | **Additional information** | **Action by whom?** | **Completed – date and name** |
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| Preparation of **the Church for services.**  Surface transmission of Covid-19  Track and Trace.  Face Coverings.  Holy Communion  Singing, music.  Singing area.  Good hygiene and cleaning of the building.  Communicate.  Cleaning. | Parish Priest. Dcn Stephen Short. |  | Parish Priest  Stephen | 19th July 2021 |
| Review guide on cleaning church buildings. Complete the ‘cleaning’ section of this risk assessment (below). |  | Stephen |  |
| Point of entry into the church to manage flow of people. While no situation is risk free, there are actions we can take to protect ourselves and others around us. Social distancing and capacity  From 19 July social distancing restrictions no longer apply. This means that you do not need to implement social distancing. | Entry through main entrance observe a distance between others whist entering and leaving and at Communion. Follow the one-way route. Please give way to others. | Marshalls |  |
| Hand sanitisers to be available for visitors to use on entry and exit. | In church porch | Marshalls | 19th July 2021 |
| Brief Marshalls on precautions to take managing entry/exit and conduct of people attending church services. | Direct congregation outside | Marshalls |  |
| Where possible, doors and windows should be opened temporarily to improve ventilation. |  | Marshalls |  |
| Remove from use all books (including hymn books and prayer books) plus cards and leaflets except single use material that will be removed by user. | Remains as previous |  |  |
|
| Continue for the present. | Eiter Q.R. code or by taking contact phone number. | Marshalls |  |
| Appropriate use of face coverings. it is sensible as a congregation to wear face covering a little longer? | Persuade those who may be reticent. | Marshalls |  |
| Clearly mark out seating. | Monitor overcrowding of pews. | Marshalls |  |
| Please allow a little distance between each other.  Give way to others to avoid close contact | Marshall to direct parishioners for communion from each pew. | Marshalls |  |
| There are no limits on the number of people who can sing or perform indoors. However, some activities can also increase the risk of catching or passing on COVID-19. This happens where people are doing activities which generate more particles as they breathe heavily, such as singing, or raising their voices. | At this stage of easing a Cantor and/or small group forming a choir can sing at Mass. | Parish Priest |  |
| Select area where singing can be undertaken keeping reducing aerosols. | Choose a suitable distance from the main body of people. (2 metres) | Parish Priest |  |
| Clearly marked out a flow of movement for people entering and leaving the church. |  | Stephen | 19th July 2021 |
| Put up notices to remind visitors about important safe practices e.g. no physical contact, practice hand washing, no entry if experiencing symptoms etc. | Notices in place | Marshalls |  |
| If the church has been used in the last 72 hours ensure high-risk surfaces and touch points have been wiped with appropriate sanitiser spray or disposable wipes. |  | Marshalls |  |
| Check that handwashing facilities have adequate soap provision and paper towels, and a bin for the paper towels. | Before services | Marshalls |  |
| In toilet facilities, ensure an adequate supply of soap and disposable hand towels, and a bin for towels, are available. |  | Marshalls |  |
| Ensure all waste receptacles have disposable liners (e.g. polythene bin bags) to reduce the risk to those responsible for removing them. |  | Marshalls |  |
| Set up a cleaning rota to cover your opening arrangements. | If the church building has been closed for 72 hours between periods of being open, then there is no need for extra cleaning to remove the virus from surfaces. | Marshalls. |  |
| All cleaners provided with gloves (ideally disposable) | Disposal of gloves and other disposable cleaning materials to be placed in double bags. | Stephen | 19th July 2021 |
| If the church has been used in the last 72 hours ensure high-risk surfaces and touch points have been wiped with appropriate sanitiser spray or disposable wipes. | After Mass. | Cleaning Teams |  |
| Suitable cleaning materials provided, depending on materials and if historic surfaces are to be cleaned. |  | Cleaning Team |  |
| Confirm person responsible for removing potentially contaminated waste (e.g. hand towels) from the site. |  | Cleaning Teams |  |
| **Cleaning the church after known exposure to someone with Coronavirus symptoms.** | Church building not in use for 72 hours with no access permitted. Our Lady Lyndhurst. | Open on Sundays and Thursdays and Sunday only | Cleaning Teams |  |
| If the building has not been quarantined for 72 hours, then carry out cleaning as per the normal after service. St Therea’s Totton | **Open on Saturdays, Sundays, and Mon. Tue. Wed.** | Cleaning Teams |  |
| **Visitors.** | Will be unclear on requirements for attending at our church or visiting the building for other purposes, or anxious about attending. | **Explain the system we are using to keep people safe** | Marshalls |  |
| **Votive Candles.** | Votive candles still in use placed unlit in stand. | **One lit candle prepared in stand.** | Stephen |  |