**ST JOHN’S CHURCH, DONISTHORPE**

**RISK ASSESSMENT – PRIVATE PRAYER**

**(updated July 2021)**

**As a result of this Risk Assessment the PCC of St John’s Donisthorpe has determined that the church building will be open for private prayer as from June 30th 2020 on Tuesday-Thursday 10am – 4pm of each week, and for funeral services**

This Risk Assessment is based upon guidance available as at19th July 2021, and practice will evolve as national and diocesan guidance allows, and the current state of play regarding the Covid 19 virus.

As a PCC we aim to minimize risk, as much as is reasonably practicable in a constantly evolving situation, whilst recognizing we cannot entirely remove it. Our assessment of risk is based on

* Location - village church, with minimal visitors from beyond the village or congregation
* The demographic of our local population, recognizing that many of our congregations and those visiting church may fall into the Extremely Vulnerable and Vulnerable groups, therefore potential impact may be high. Although legal constraints have been removed, there remains justifiable fear of infection and the PCC wishes to create an environment where all can feel safe.
* The prevalence, of Covid 19 in the immediate and neighbouring communities is high

Therefore our ***overall assessment of risk at this point is low/medium with controls in place***. If this changes, prevalence increases, or volunteers become unavailable then our approach will be revisited.

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| **Risk** | **Level of Risk** | **Control Measure** | **Risk after Control Measure** | **To do** |
| Lack of Social Distancing | Medium | * One way system: Enter down left aisle, depart down right aisle. * Signs at door, * Directional Arrows, * Signs to remind of 2 m distance. * No public worship or other activity to take place in church while open for private prayer * Notice to direct to sit at front on plastic seats | Low | Need signs to say   * follow 1 way system * sit on plastic chairs – * social distancing signage * add arrows to floor |
| Infection through shared use of Prayer Corner | Low | * Disinfect high use surfaces. At opening and closing. (Door handles, switches, seat) * Notices to say visitors should use hand sanitizer on entry and on leaving the building * No-one with symptoms to come in | Low | * Rota agreed to do week in turn on this duty * Notice re no entry if symptoms or vulnerable * Notice re not touching etc |
| Infection from touching physical surfaces | ~~Medium~~ Low | * Notices to say visitors should use hand sanitiser on entry and on leaving the building | Low | Notices as above |

**RISK ASSESSMENT – FUNERALS**

(Approved by PCC on June 18th 2020 and updated July 2021)

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| **Risk** | **Level of Risk** | **Control Measure** | **Level of Risk after Control Measure** |
| Lack of Social Distancing | High | * One way system throughout Church, enter down left aisle, leave via right aisle, signed at door and on floor. * Request to remember social distancing when choosing seat. * Alternate box pews to be taped open (effect is to close off alternate box) * Verbal reminder of no hand shaking or contact. * Funeral directors in attendance to help | Medium to Low |
| Contamination via Shared Resources and Surfaces | Low | * Doors to be left open during service * Hand sanitizer dispenser at entrance. | Low |
| Emotional Distress | High | * Those shielding not encouraged to attend. * Emphasise no one with symptoms to attend * Don’t go close to put arm round etc | Medium |
| Emergency Situations (ill health) | Medium | * Funeral directors to be briefed if action needed * Emphasise no one to go to others’ assistance, but to call 111 or 999 as appropriate. * Stay at 2m distance | Low |
| Emergency situation (fire) | Medium | * Follow fire evacuation procedure as at Appendix | Low |

**RISK ASSESSMENT: GENERAL (INCLUDING CONTRACTOR VISITS)**

**(Nov 2020)**

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| **Risk** | **Level of risk** | **Control measure** | **Risk after control measure** |
| Infection after known exposure to someone with Coronavirus symptoms | High | * If possible close the church building for 72 hours with no access permitted. * If 72-hour quarantine is not possible then follow Public Health England guidance on cleaning in non-healthcare settings. * If the building has been quarantined for 72 hours, then carry out cleaning as per the normal advice on cleaning. * Prominent display of Track and Trace QR code. | Medium |
| Infection following general use of church | Medium | * Check all cleaners are not in a vulnerable group or self-isolating. * All cleaners provided with gloves (ideally disposable) to protect their skin from exposure to cleaning materials. * Suitable cleaning materials provided |  |
| Infection from small groups meeting in church | High | * No meetings of CoffeeandChat, 3 Ts, Lunch Light or Mother’s Union at this time * PCC meetings etc to be conducted by Zoom * Necessary visits by contractors to be limited. * 48 hours to be left after contractor visits or cleaning to be carried out before use again. | Low |