

The Bells of St. Helen's

Volume 2 No. 3 – August/Summer 2020



A Careful Return to In-Person Gatherings

What has been a necessity for the well being of everyone is being relaxed just enough for us to be able to have in-person gatherings. We are allowed to have in person gatherings for up to 50 people.

From this Sunday, August 16th we will be able to have in person services of worship with up to 50 people attending. We will celebrate the Holy Eucharist. Those attending will receive bread alone. If you wish to attend, it is necessary that you pre-register so we can allow a place for as many who are willing and able to come. We understand there are people who may not yet feel comfortable to come along at this point for a variety of reasons. Because of this, we will continue to Livestream our Sunday service so that those who wish to participate in a virtual way will still be able to do so. A service sheet will continue to be emailed as well.

Updates and information about Sunday services, any events as well as other news will be made on our Facebook page as well as our Parish website

The Parish Website is found at:
www.sthelensurrey.ca

The Facebook Page is found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/sainthelensurrey>

Each Sunday there will be about 10 people of the maximum 50 who are a part of the Sunday ministry team. This means we will have room for up to another 40 people.

Steps to Take to Attend In-Person Gatherings at St. Helen's



As you consider whether to attend an in-person gathering or Sunday service, it may feel a little like being asked to take a walk across an old rickety bridge with a raging river below. But it isn't. There are steps both you and the leadership at St. Helen's can take to ensure that we are kept safe as we take these steps together. To begin, please ask yourself these questions:

a/Am I well?

b/Do I have any pre-existing conditions that make me more susceptible to illness.

c/Will I be able to keep social distance

d/Am I comfortable wearing a face mask for the gathering or for the service for at least part of the time, if I am asked to do so.

If you feel confident in your answers in the context of coming to the Sunday Eucharist, please do consider registering.

1/ **Please Register** - You must register your desire to attend the Sunday morning 10am Eucharist.

You can do this by sending an email to the church office email address (preferably by the Saturday morning before the

Sunday) or by leaving a phone message on the office phone, stating you would like to attend. If



you are emailing or phoning on behalf of other people than yourself, please give the name of each person including any children. Please state whether you are in a family bubble with the others. You will be prioritized according to the day and time the email or phone message was received.

If the number of people wanting to come on any particular Sunday exceeds our 50 limit, your name will automatically go to the top of the list for the next Sunday. If this is the case, you will be contacted early the next week to confirm your desire to attend.

If you have been confirmed to come on a Sunday and you find that you are no longer able to do so or are ill, please send an email to the office or phone the office to let us know. We would then be able to add someone else who is on the wait list.

2/ Leaving Home – Please wash your hands before leaving home. Please bring a mask with you and one for each person who may need to wear a mask at some time during the service. You will need a mask to come for communion. We will have masks available.

3/Arriving at the church. There is plenty of parking space, so please leave 6 feet between vehicles. If the weather is fine, it is preferred for people to remain outdoors until about 10 minutes before the service. This will allow for the team to do what they need to do to prepare for the service.

Washroom Facilities – The washrooms, although NOT out of bounds and may be used, will have to be sanitized after each use and only 1 person at a time may use a washroom. Please keep this in mind when you arrive at the church and if you are able to refrain for using the facilities until you arrive back home, that would be the best solution. More information about the use of the washrooms will be posted by the washrooms.



4/Entering and Exiting the Church. Unless you have mobility issues, you must enter the church through the main doors at the north west end of the

building. Exiting the church will be through the doors on the north and south sides of the church.

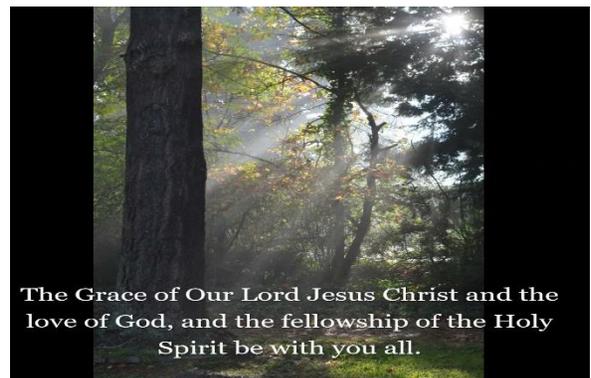
These are the pulpit and organ sides. We want to maintain a one way flow of movement as much as possible.

There will be **hand sanitizer** at the doors and around the church. Please use the hand sanitizer upon entering and leaving

5/ Greeters – We expect there will be 2-3 greeters at each service. One greeter will be outside or near the porch area of the entrance. That greeter will welcome you, give you any special instructions and tick you name(s) on the list of expected attendees. If you are coming as a family (or a social bubble) please enter together and stay together.

6/ Service Sheets Available – A second greeter will direct you to pick up a service sheet which will be found on a table in the area of the font. If you have someone to be remembered as a part of the prayers, that person will take the name of the person for whom you wish us to pray and pass it on to the person leading the prayers before the service begins. **The offering plate** will also be found in the same area if you brought offering with you, please place it in the plate when you enter.

7/ Seating in the Pews. As much as possible we wish to seat people from front to back. This will be helpful to have less passing by one another. We expect to sit family bubbles together. In order to do so, the seating will be arranged as people come in so that proper social distancing can be maintained.



8/ The Service Begins

The following is a general guideline for how we will conduct the service. Verbal instructions will be given throughout the service as it unfolds.

Unfortunately, because singing too easily increases the spread of what may come out of our mouth, there can be no congregational singing during Phase III. It is allowed for one person to sing a hymn with

the organ or piano to accompany. The soloist will sing using a microphone from either the Lady Chapel or from the Sanctuary. The singer must be kept more distant from the rest of the congregation. The congregation, wearing a mask may quietly mouth the words as it is sung.

As the service begins, the organ will play and the officiant and assistant will enter the nave to the sanctuary. Everyone is standing to begin and will stand and sit as according to our usual custom.

The service will unfold in the usual way being led from the chancel step. Readers will be invited to come to the lectern to read the lessons and lead the psalm. The readers are asked, if possible, to not touch the lectern or the microphone.

We will sit as we listen to and follow along the hymns but will stand for the reading of the Gospel.

The sermon will be given from the lectern as will the prayers of the people.

At the time of the peace, people are asked to remain in their place and simply turn to one another and offer a nod of the head or mouth the words of peace. We will feel that our hands are tied on this but it is what we are obligated to observe.

9/The Eucharist/Coming for Communion–



We will have to use bread wafers during Phase III and only the presider may touch the bread. The wafers will be covered as they are

consecrated.

The Eucharistic prayer and the Lord's Prayer will be said. When it is time for people to receive communion. A greeter will invite people to come forward in the usual manner making sure there is social distancing. The presider will have used hand cleanser immediately before the distribution of bread and will wear a mask. **The person coming forward for communion must wear a mask.** The bread will be placed in the communicant's hands without touching the person. The communicant will return to their place in the usual way going through the vestry or through the chapel and only once again seated should the person eat the bread that has been given to them.

Coming for a blessing – There may be some who wish to come for a blessing only. Please cross your arms in front to indicate you wish a blessing. The presider will bless the person without touching them.

10/Leaving the Church after the Dismissal

Once the final hymn has been sung and the dismissal has been given, everyone is asked to leave the church by moving forward and through the side doors. There is no coffee hour and the priests will not be at the doors to shake hands, but we will be in the parking lot waving to everyone and saying hello in a socially distanced way.

Following Up After the Service

The leadership team will debrief after the service to talk over what went well and what can be improved upon. We expect there will be some glitches but will do our best to limit these and remedy them for the next gathering. We would love to hear from you.

The Next Edition of The Bells

The next edition of The Bells will come out at the beginning of September. At that time we hope to be able to share with everyone any events, special services, building restoration updates and everything else that has St. Helen, our neighbourhood, and our ministries at the centre. In the mean time, stay safe, enjoy the summer and find time to pray for the well-being of all humanity.

Please Remember!

If you plan to attend a Sunday Eucharist in person, you must register so we know you are coming and can plan for the numbers.

Once registered, if you change your mind about attending, please do let us know.

We look forward to seeing you once Again!