

Berkswich Parish

Re-opening of Parish Churchyards following easing of Cov-19 Lockdown June 2020

Foreword:

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 Government lockdown directive, the Church of England Bishops issued a directive to all parishes indicating that all church buildings and churchyards should be closed with immediate effect in order to protect against coronavirus.

Following government lockdown easing, the Bishops have issued new directives stating that churchyard gardening actions can be resumed providing adequate distancing and sanitisation procedures are followed.

The Berkswich Parish PCC have therefore suggested that in order to comply with the necessary requirements regarding Coronavirus protection and the Bishops directives it would be a useful exercise to produce a Risk Assessment outlining the necessary requirements to ensure as far as practical the safety of gardeners whilst attending to appreciated activities in looking after our churchyard spaces of our church buildings.

With this in mind it is proposed to:

1. Zone the churchyard gardens in terms of North, South, East and West and only persons from the same household will be allowed to work in any one zone at a time.
2. All gardeners must wash their hands before and after use of all tools and machinery and then washed frequently throughout the day of attendance. Tools when returned to storage shed should be wiped down.
3. The gardeners are encouraged to wash their hands regularly and in particular at the conclusion of their work. The outside water tap will provide cold water and a supply of liquid soap and hand gel together with paper hand towels will be provided. A paper towel disposal lined bin will be provided on site. Before leaving the site it is recommended that each person uses hand gel on their hands so as to give maximum protection against possible virus.
4. A single person will only have access to the garden machinery/tool storage shed and be responsible for sanitising all machinery and tools before use. Sanitising spray together with paper wipes etc will be provided on site. The same person will be responsible for returning equipment to the storage shed when work is finished each day.
5. It will be very essential for each person carrying out gardening work to provide electronically (or requests someone with the facility) details of their attendance (Name, Date, times of attendance, Work Zone and nature of work completed)
6. A waste bin will be provided complete with liner for placing any possibly contaminated (paper wipes and towels) items for disposal. At the end of each gardening session the Liner must be tied up and sealed and left in the bin for disposal following a period of at least 72 hrs (Three days) duration