Her Majesty’s Government announced on the 19th January 2022 that all measures put in place under plan B in England will be lifted from 27th January 2022.

The advice of Her Majesty’s Government is that everyone should continue to follow safer behaviours to protect themselves and others; everyone should get fully vaccinated; that face coverings might be useful in most indoor public places and on public transport; that ample supplies of fresh air should be utilised if meeting indoors; that people showing symptoms of Covid should get tested and self-isolate if required.

The legal limits on the numbers of people allowed to meet indoors and outdoors have been removed, including all capacity limits in church buildings and other venues, as well as removal of the 1 metre+ social distancing rules. Face coverings Face coverings are no longer mandatory in any setting but may be recommended in enclosed or crowded places, particularly where one comes into contact with people with whom one does not normally meet.

The best available scientific evidence is that, when used correctly, wearing a face covering can reduce the spread of coronavirus droplets and aerosols in certain circumstances, helping to protect others. Because face coverings are mainly intended to protect others, not the wearer, from coronavirus (COVID-19) they are not a replacement for social distancing and regular hand washing.

1. The Rector, or his representative, reserves the right to not to admit people if a deemed-to-be safe number of worshippers is or is likely to be exceeded or if someone who is not exempted from doing so fails to wear a face covering in the required manner.

2. Everyone must respect a person’s right not to be approached or their space encroached upon without invitation to do so.

3. Toilet facilities will be made available to worshippers whenever possible on Sundays, weekdays and during funerals, memorial services and weddings. Access may be limited because of building works.

4. The parish church is adequately ventilated, and good ventilation will be maintained.

5. The Sunday 8.30 am Eucharist and the mid-week Wednesday at 1.10 pm Eucharist will be livestreamed via YouTube whenever this is possible and practicable. No individual will be filmed other than the officiating priests and the person reading the lesson or leading the intercessions.

6. A stringent hygiene routine will remain in place.

7. The Ciborium will be covered during the prayer of consecration.

8. Only the celebrant may drink from the Chalice.

9. Only bread will be administered by the priests. This will be done by placing the bread into the outstretched hand of the communicant using a pair of stainless-steel tongs.

10. The Peace will not be shared physically, but people are encouraged to acknowledge each other as fellow members of the Body of Christ.

11. All words for worship will be displayed on the AV screens.

12. All words used in public worship will be available on the parish church’s website (www.stmarylebone.org) for downloading onto smart phones or tablets.
13. All worshippers are encouraged to make their donation electronically, preferably via Standing Order and/or bank credit.

14. Sidesmen and Welcomers may have to refuse entry to latecomers and those whose participation in worship might cause the permitted number of worshippers to be exceeded.

The Revd Canon Dr Stephen Evans, Rector of St Marylebone

27th January 2022