



St Marylebone Young Church Protocol

This document is in addition to the Return to Public Worship protocol on the St Marylebone Parish Church website. It outlines changes to Young Church sessions during the 8:30am Holy Communion and the 11am Choral Eucharist. These guidelines, designed to help keep our children and families safe during public worship at St Marylebone Parish Church, will be updated regularly in the light of advice issued by HM Government and the Church of England.

At St Marylebone Young Church, the following is now in place:

1. Children, Parent Helpers and the Families Lead will be expected to socially distance. To enable them to do so only certain school year groups are catered for each week. Young Church will be split into **A.** Years 1 and 2, **B.** Years 3 and 4 and **C.** Years 5 and 6. Children of secondary school age are called Young Volunteers, and will be invited to attend the sessions to assist. Splitting children into year groups will minimise the amount of 'mixing' at Young Church.
2. A hand sanitising station will be at the entrance to the Crypt Hall, and all children will be asked to use it before sitting down.
3. Both the 8:30am and 11am Young Church sessions will now take place in the Crypt Hall. At the beginning of the main service, children will sit down with their families until invited forward to go downstairs.
4. A maximum of **15 children** will be catered for in each session, at both 8:30am and 11am. This number includes Young Volunteers, and is in-line with government guidance that providers keep children in small groups of 15. Numbers above **15** will be asked to go back upstairs to join the main service, and invited to record a reading for the Virtual Young Church video at the end of the month instead.
5. The downstairs disabled toilet will be available for Young Church children. Only **1** child can use the toilet at a time, and must ask a Parent Helper/the Families Lead for permission. If a child is in **Year 1** or **Year 2** and requires assistance using the toilet facilities, the Families Lead will go upstairs and ask their parent/guardian to accompany them.
6. Parent Volunteers are welcome to bring their own children into the session they are assisting at, regardless of school year group. These children will count as Young Volunteers and part of the **15** maximum.
7. **2** Parent Helpers will be present alongside the Families Ministry Lead, practicing social distancing and provided with face visors.
8. The Families Ministry Lead will take a register of children in attendance in the Crypt Hall. **All children**, whether or not they are attending the Young Church session, will be registered as they come into the building for Test and Trace purposes. The Families Ministry Lead uses the Test and Trace register to record Sunday attendance as well.
9. After both the 8:30am and 11am services, surfaces will be wiped down and sanitised. Children will be asked to bring their own stationery, including pens, pencils and paper. If additional craft equipment is required, these will be provided (prepared and untouched for a week beforehand).
10. Children will be sat on or near coloured circles on the floor of the Crypt Hall, leaving 2-metre gaps.

11. The Families Ministry Lead will inform children of all the changes in place at the start of each session. They will be instructed not to share any physical equipment/stationery.
12. Food and drink will **not** be permitted for the entirety of the session. If a child needs a drink of water, they will be accompanied back upstairs to their parent/guardian.
13. Children will be escorted back upstairs to the main service in time for Holy Communion as usual. Children will line up and leave a space of 2 metres between each other when leaving the space, and sanitise their hands again at the hand sanitising station at the upstairs entrance.
14. Going up for Holy Communion: Children will have to wait at the entrance to the main church, in their socially-distanced line, until all other communicants have gone back to their seats. The Families Ministry Lead will instruct them when they can go in and process to the choir steps to receive the Host or a blessing.
15. A First Aid box is available downstairs for Young Church, to be used by the Families Lead who is First Aid trained.

Rector

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