**UPDATE ON RE-OPENING THE PARISH HALLS**

The Parish is now in a position to re-open the halls for activities that are permitted under the Government’s COVID-19 restrictions, beginning with the Lower Hall and the Lounge. Our risk assessment has been approved by the Diocese and we have put in place a range of measures to make the halls “COVID-19 secure”.

If you wish to use the halls you will need to make a booking by emailing thelma@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk and ensure you comply with the parish risk assessment. Links to the checklists setting out what measures the parish is putting in place, and what measures event organisers will need to take is available on the [home page](https://www.sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/Admin/Publisher/Document/DocumentEditor.aspx?document_id=525238&GroupID=283445&tab=tbEditor) of the parish website. If you run a parish group and would like to discuss how you can get it up and running again, either in person or online, please contact sarah.tobin@btconnect.com

**Rule of Six**: We have received several questions about how the rule of six will affect events in the parish halls. This depends on the type of event.

**For social activities**, the Government tightened up the guidance on 1 October. The Government guidance reads: “COVID-secure community facilities are permitted to hold social groups, clubs and activities in groups of no more than 6. Community facilities can host multiple groups of 6, subject to capacity, but groups must not mix socially or form larger groups. However, we strongly advise that activities where there is a significant likelihood of groups mixing and socialising (and where it will be difficult to prevent mingling and therefore breaking the law) should not take place in a community facility.”

For **support groups**, “gatherings of groups of up to 15 (subject to capacity)” are permitted “if organised by a business, charitable, benevolent or philanthropic institution or a public body to provide mutual aid, therapy or any other form of support to its members or those who attend its meetings.”

For **meetings**: Government guidance says “We continue to recommend that where meetings can take place digitally without the need for face-to-face contact, they should continue to do so.”

Activities for **children and young people** are permitted, subject to specific guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak> and, for youth <https://nya.org.uk/guidance/>

**Indoor performances** to socially distanced audiences can take place if in line with the performing arts guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/performing-arts> . Community facilities must not allow singing in groups of more than 6, dancing, or music over certain volumes.

**In all cases**, users of COVID-19 secure facilities such as the parish halls should maintain social distancing between households and follow the familiar requirements regarding hand hygiene, face coverings and track and trace. Full details are set out in the parish risk-assessment.