



St Oswald's Community

Working together to stay safe

It is such a joy to be able to welcome you to St Oswald's. We have been looking forward to this day as it heralds a new chapter in the life of our small new community! We pray that your stay with us will be restorative and restful, and that you'll have the opportunity to join in with the life of the Community, 'coming home to God, others, ourselves and creation'. We also want you to feel safe as we begin to come out of this pandemic. We have been carefully reading the Government guidelines and the current restrictions, interpreting them for a place like St Oswald's. What follows is how we can take care of each other; giving you guidelines so that your time with us feels safe for everyone. Taking care of each other when visiting St Oswald's during this time will very much be a team effort. We have put in place a range of measures, but we will need your help with these, as we share this time together.

Before Visiting

On the day before or the morning of your visit, we will ask you to complete a pre-visit declaration to confirm you are feeling well, haven't been in contact with others at higher risk of infection and to give us details for Test & Trace. The community will be taking lateral flow tests twice a week (Sundays and Thursdays) and so it would be great if you were also able to do a lateral flow test prior to your visit to St Oswald's.

General Hygiene

These guidelines will all be very familiar but are important for us all to remember:

- Regular, thorough hand washing
- There are a number of hand sanitiser points as you come into and move around the building - please use these frequently.
- We are regularly using a viricidal cleaner on common contact surfaces throughout the building.
- We will also be leaving more windows open in public spaces.

Physical Distancing

We have set out the seating in the public rooms to enable us to be together whilst maintaining physical distance as necessary. Please can you leave the seating as it has been set up. Please remember that Governments guidelines are such that we are required to maintain a 2 (or 1+) metre distance between those from other households.

Face Coverings

As a place offering hospitality, it is mandatory for all of us (unless you have a specific exemption) to wear a face covering whilst moving about in public indoor spaces or when sat in a venue with more than 6 people, such as public worship in the Chapel. When you are sat in one of the lounges as part of a seating cluster of 6 or less people, then you do not need to wear a face covering.

Here are some pointers about the arrangement in different venues:-

Bedrooms – As our bedrooms are not en-suite, you will be allocated a specific bathroom/toilet just for your bedroom (or bedrooms belonging to your household). As we are currently limited to 3 households staying in the main house, we aim to alternate the bedrooms being used for each group of guests so that we can give as much time as possible between bedrooms being used by different people/households. There is a hospitality tray in each bedroom to make hot drinks as, for the time being, the communal drinks points (dining room and kitchen on guest corridor) won't be available to use.

Main Lounge/Small Lounge – These rooms are available for your use throughout your stay. The chairs/sofas are arranged in such a way that physical distancing can be maintained. Just one household per sofa please, with a maximum of 6 for any social gathering. We'll be aiming to have windows open as much as possible to increase ventilation.

Dining Room – We have two large tables in our dining room and so we will arrange the seating according to the numbers in the house and in each household/bubble, ensuring sufficient distance between each person/household. You will have the same seat for the duration of your stay.

Breakfast - The Dining Room will be open from 8:15am to 9:00am for a 'rolling' breakfast, so please come straight in when you're ready. Breakfast is a mixture of self and table service. As there'll only be a few households at breakfast and eating times may be staggered, we ask that for the self-service aspects of breakfast, you wait until others have returned to the table rather than queuing. There will be hand sanitiser available on the self-service counter and so we ask you to sanitise your hands before and after touching communal items (cereal boxes, serving spoons for porridge/fruit/yoghurt). Additional serving spoons will be available. A community member will bring you tea and coffee to your table and will take orders for toast. There will be condiments in a tray which will be designated to you/your household throughout your stay.

Lunch – there will be a packed lunch available for those who'd prefer that. For those joining us, Lunch will be at 1pm. Please gather in the main lounge or hall and we'll let you know when we're ready for you to take your seats. Lunch will be served to your table.

Dinner – Our main meal will be at (or about!) 6pm. Please gather as you would for lunch. Dinner will be served to your table.

Chapel – The community hold a rhythm of prayer 3 times a day and you are most welcome to come and be part of that. We pray at 9am, 12:30pm & 5pm. We have arranged the chapel in such a way that there is allocated seating for each household which allows for appropriate distancing. Each seat has a room number attached to the front of it and that will be your dedicated chair for the duration of your stay, whether you come to prayers or not! Liturgy books will be placed on your chair and will remain there throughout your stay. There is a sanitiser station in the chapel just inside the back door and also in the library as you enter the chapel from the house. The wearing of face coverings is mandatory for worship for everyone (unless medically exempt) apart from the person leading.

Library – You are most welcome to make use of our Library. As with all of our communal spaces, please sanitise hands on entry to the library and again when leaving. Any book that you touch and don't take with you needs to be put in the large basket. Please return any books you've borrowed to the quarantine basket, at the end of your stay.

Summer House/Hilda Room/Cockpit – These outdoor 'sun' rooms are available for use by all of our guests, including those who are self-catering. We ask that just one household uses the Summer House and Cockpit at any one time as there's no opportunity for physical distancing. The Hilda room can be arranged to accommodate two households. There is sanitiser available in each space, so please sanitise your hands when arriving and when leaving.

If you would like more detailed information, including what will happen if you, or another guest or community member develop COVID-19 symptoms while you are here, there is a risk assessment on our website that is divided into different sections. If you have any questions before you arrive, do feel free to get in touch or you can ask a member of the community when you're here. We're so looking forward to welcoming you to St Oswald's!



** Adapted from Scargill Movement's 'Taking Care of Each Other' document. June 2021*