



St Yeghiche Armenian Church Parish

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Registered Charity No 1173403

St Yeghiche Armenian Church Parish Ltd, 13b Cranley Gardens, Kensington London SW7 3BB

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3rd July 2020

Dear Parish and community member

Restoration of Church Services

We are pleased to inform you that St Yeghiche Church will open its doors for public worship from Sunday 5th July 2020. We will also continue with live streaming where possible. This is follow on from the Government announcement that church buildings will be able to reopen for public worship from 4th July 2020, providing physical distancing remains in place.

This is not a return to normality but at least we will now be able to meet and worship together in our church buildings. As well as Divine Liturgy, we can now conduct weddings, baptisms, funerals, and other services, admittedly with some restrictions.

The faithful is reminded that perfect solutions do not exist for this unprecedented challenge that this pandemic presents to us as a Parish and Diocese. Therefore it remains the individual decision of each faithful member and (or) household to weigh the benefits and blessings to themselves and their families of gradually returning to Church against the risks inherent in any public activity, in the midst of our current situation.

Keeping our Parishioners and Church servers safe has always been our priority, and that is more important than ever during the Coronavirus pandemic. To this end a number of safety measures have been put in place, listed below, which we expect you to follow.

Individuals who are shielding should continue to follow the government's advice on shielding.

The clinically vulnerable and extremely clinically vulnerable individuals are advised not to attend worship places however this is advisory, and they can choose how to manage their own risks.

No person belonging to a high-risk group or feeling unwell in any way should participate in any Church activities or attend Church.

Certain groups of people may be at increased risk of severe disease, including people who are aged 70 or older, regardless of medical conditions. Individuals who fall within this group are advised to stay at home as much as possible and, if they do go out, to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside of their household.

1. There will be single entrance door and a single exit door.

Priest in Charge: Rev Fr Nshan Alaverdyan

Chairman: Mr. V Haladjian, Vice Chairman: Mr. K Vartanian, Treasurer: Dr. S Karanfilian, Secretary Deacon N Afrikyan,

Members: Mrs. A Babayan, Mr. L Arakelian, Mrs. S Jojaghayan

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2. Use Hand sanitiser gel and wipes located near the entrance and exit doors. Wash hands thoroughly using soap and water.
3. Avoid contact with frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles and rails.
4. Follow the one-way flow signs inside the Church.
5. Adhere to social distancing of 2m at all times.
6. Only use the nominated seats.
7. Avoid touching or kissing objects that are handled communally.
8. You are encouraged to wear your own coverings and veils.
9. Liturgy books will not be available, bring your own or use digital versions.
10. Parents must exercise particular caution and must supervise their children, ensuring that they do not come into contact with other people.
11. Only sing along in a whisper to minimise any possible transmission of disease.
12. The Kiss of Peace is to be conducted by bowing the head toward others, without approaching or touching them.
13. Holy Communion is distributed in according with the directive of His Holiness KAREKIN II, this will be done at the end of BADARAK. Note that taking the communion is a private matter, those who feel that they are ready to take it however must appreciate the risks involved.
14. Please provide your contact details to the Parish council. The parish will be maintaining an accurate temporary record of congregation attending, for 21 days, this is to assist NHS Test and Trace with requests for that data if needed for contact tracing and the investigation of local outbreaks.
15. Congregation is encouraged to make their donations electronically. Where this is not an option, cash should be placed in the appropriate plate.
16. Traditional coffee hour/fellowship will not take place.

We look forward to welcoming you.

St Yeghiche Parish Council