

TETBURY COMMUNITY CHOIR
Covid-19 Risk Assessment for the recommencement of choir rehearsals

1. Observations

- 1.1.The choir currently comprises up to 50 members, alongside the Director of Music.
- 1.2.Christ Church is relatively spacious, with a high roof and reasonable space for a choir. All doors and available windows can be opened. As all legal separation requirements have been lifted as much separation as possible will be implemented.
- 1.3.There is currently no requirement to wear masks or socially distance within Christ Church, this is the personal choice of individuals, but some precautions will be encouraged.
- 1.4.There is no direct evidence that singing is more prone to the spread of the virus than speaking. Training of good vocal technique will be directly taught and exercised, including the capacity to produce good tone with the minimum expellation of air: one breath should be sufficient for some 15 seconds of singing (ref. the famous candle-test - the candle should not flicker if held 2 feet from the mouth of the singer).
- 1.5.Currently, fully vaccinated people do not have to quarantine or self-isolate even after being in contact with anyone infected with Covid-19.

2. Risks and mitigations.

- 2.1.The general risk of infection.
- 2.1.1. The risk is greater for less than fully vaccinated people and much greater for those who are clinically vulnerable or who cannot be or

have not been vaccinated. It is believed that the large majority of TCC members will have been fully vaccinated, and the following assessments are made for these people. It is the responsibility of individual choir members to assess their personal risk level and act according to their assessment of their own risk.

2.2. Infection by physical association on arrival and departure

2.2.1. Choir members should, if possible, take a lateral flow test for Covid-19 within 48 hours of a choir practice. Test kits and instructions are available free from local pharmacies. If you do this and receive a positive result, do not attend choir practice.

2.2.2. Choir members are asked to sanitise their hands on entering Christ Church.

2.2.3. Choir members are asked to wear facemasks, where at all possible, on entering and leaving the church and maintain social distancing from the exterior door to their seat.

2.2.4. Choir members should avoid socialising before, after and during the choir practice whilst inside Christ Church and leave the building promptly.

2.3. Infection during rehearsal

2.3.1. Choir members will be seated as far apart as is possible and, when standing, will stand in front of their respective chairs.

2.3.2. Distances between rows will be maximised.

2.3.3. Singers should avoid turning or looking towards neighbours when singing.

2.3.4. Singers may wear masks when singing.

2.3.5. Masks may be worn during distribution of music and breaks between singing.

2.3.6. Choir members should not share copies of music. Wherever possible, only the respective member will handle his/her copies and bring them to practices and store them between practices.

2.3.7. Members may bring their own water-bottles for use during the practice, which should not be shared. No refreshments will be provided for any breaks during the practices.

2.3.8. The kitchen will not be used.

2.3.9. Toilets are available, but masks should be worn.

2.4. (Lack of) Ventilation

2.4.1.1. For rehearsals the internal doors will be left open.

2.4.1.2. The external doors and windows will be open.

2.5. Illness

2.5.1. Any member feeling unwell before a practice should not attend that practice.

2.5.2. Anyone feeling unwell during a practice should immediately leave the practice.

2.5.3. Anyone who has tested positive for Covid-19 should not attend any practices until they are clear of Covid.

3. Personal Responsibility

3.1. It is understood that choir members sing in the choir at their own risk.

They are each asked to agree to and carefully use the procedures outlined above.

3.2. Choir members agree that the TCC cannot be held liable in the event of their catching Corvid-19

DRAFT 18/10/2021

At the TCC Practices:

- It is assumed that TC members are very largely fully vaccinated. If you are not, please consider carefully the risks to yourself or others of attending practices before you do so, at the present time.
- TCC Members should not attend practices if they feel unwell, whether or not a Covid test has been done.
- TCC Members should leave the practice immediately if you feel unwell during the time that you are there.
- If you are unwell and/or receive a positive Covid-19 test result after attending any practice, immediately let the Secretary or other committee member know.
- Entering or leaving Christ Church, please use the hand-sanitiser provided.
- The kitchen(s) are not to be used.
- If needed use only the toilet in the entrance area.
- Bring the exact amount for your personal subscription to avoid change having to be given.
- Do not bring friends or guests to a practice without first informing the Secretary.
- Bring with you and use personal copies of music; do not share music/words with anyone else.
- Bring your own water (if you want to) and do not share drink or food with anyone else.
- We are asked by Christ Church to wear masks within the building whenever possible. Please do this. Wearing a mask for singing is optional and a personal choice; doing so is considered acceptable by the MD. Respect other people's choices in this. If you sing without a mask, please remember to replace it when moving from your chair. If you are medically exempt from wearing a mask, please let a committee member know and think carefully about any increased risk to yourself or others.
- Minimise face to face conversations inside the building.
- Whilst within Christ Church please do not gather in large or small groups and talk.