

# Information About Services & Groups

From 04 July 2020

Following the easing of lockdown measures, introduced on 04 July 2020 we are now allowed to meet in our building, subject to current Government guidance and any additional local restrictions.

We will be approaching this carefully and letting you know about any services or meetings that we are planning. We hope that the following summary helps you to understand how we can use our building and some of the restrictions still in place. For a while, things will feel strange, they will look different and there will still be some things we will miss, such as singing together, but we look forward to this next stage as we begin to join in fellowship, physically, in some way once again.

## Use of Building

In considering the re-opening of our building, in order to gather to worship, there are a variety of factors we must take into account. Numbers will be limited, not only by how many seats can be accommodated under social distancing, but also by ventilation, entrances / exits i.e. one-way systems, toilets, cleaning etc.

We want to do this in as safe a way as possible, recognising the tension between our desire to join together and our responsibility to protect one another.

Due to the increased transmission risk, singing and use of wind instruments are not permitted. We are able to play recordings and videos. Any meeting that we have, will be assessed individually as to the number that can attend, however we estimate that the maximum will be around 30 for the time being. Food or drink is not permitted, before, during or after a service, with the exception that communion may be shared in a way that is safe for all involved. Unfortunately, we are not allowed to facilitate a social time before or after the service.

For these reasons, we will not be looking to return to Sunday morning services in the building, but will continue online and by CD / DVD.

We will, on the other hand, be looking at ways that small groups may be able to gather for some one-off meetings. These will need to be spaced out as our guidance is to leave 72 hours between different events. In order to control numbers, it is likely that these will need to be pre-booked.

## Social Distancing & Hygiene

We know that you are all friendly, loving people and may well want to greet someone who you haven't seen for quite a while, perhaps with a handshake, a hug or maybe even a kiss. As a church we have a duty to try and protect anyone coming in and so would ask that you refrain from this. Everyone will be comfortable with different levels of interaction, and may be isolating for reasons you are unaware of, so please don't assume anything.

During a meeting, all seating will be arranged into household groupings, with each grouping being spaced two metres apart. Members are then responsible for maintaining good social distancing.

Hand sanitiser will be available at entrances and exits, please make use of this. Members are encouraged to wash their hands prior to coming to the building, and follow the Government guidelines on good hygiene practices (washing hands regularly, minimising contact with surfaces etc.) From 08 August 2020 it is compulsory for people to wear face coverings in church, so please remember to bring a mask with you.

Toilets will be available; but we would encourage you to only make use of these facilities where necessary. We will be operating a 'one in, one out' system.

In order to provide effective and safe ventilation, we will need to have certain windows and doors open, please be aware that church may be cooler than usual!

## **Illness & Symptoms of COVID-19**

No-one should attend the service if they have any of the key symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, persistent dry cough and loss of taste or smell), have had such symptoms within the past 14 days, or have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Track and Trace.

## **Vulnerable & Shielding**

Individuals who are shielding should continue to follow the guidance given to them by the Government.

Over 70s and those in vulnerable groups continue to be advised to avoid larger gatherings and therefore must make their own decisions on this. However, as we are looking towards meeting together again, we will be offering some events specifically for these groups.

## **Children**

Young children must remain with someone from within their own household group throughout the meeting and be accompanied to the toilet, should this need arise. Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide any children's activities for the time being.

## **Track and Trace**

We are required to keep a record of all attendees for the purposes of NHS Track and Trace. This information will be kept for 21 days, in line with our privacy policy.

Should you subsequently show symptoms, or test positive for COVID-19, please notify the church so that we can take appropriate action.

## **BYOB**

If you are coming to any meeting at the building, remember to bring your own Bible, notebook and pen!