

## **Returning to Worship? What you need to know.**

Unfortunately, due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, a number of restrictions are in place that we would not normally impose on worshippers attending a service but, for the safety of all, we are obliged to take precautions and would ask your cooperation in observing the Government guidelines to ensure the service takes place as safely as possible.

### **Coronavirus measures**

The church now has in place a risk assessment which you should review before deciding whether it is time for you to return to worship.

In considering whether it is the right time for you to return to worship, please give thought to how you plan to get to the building. If you normally rely on a lift, please be aware that government guidance highlights the risk of accepting lifts from people who are not part of your family 'bubble'. If you normally offer lifts, or normally accept lifts, please be aware of the risks involved, take mitigating measures to keep drivers and passengers safe and do not put pressure on a passenger to accept a lift, or a driver to offer a lift, if they feel unsafe to do so.

You will probably be aware that singing in public is not allowed. The service may contain music and we ask you would refrain from singing.

**The Building has the following measures in place:** Hand Gel stations near the entrances and exits, signage giving directions, instructions and reminders of good and safe practice. Floor signage distance markers. Seating has been adjusted to allow for social distancing (1m +) seating plans are used to ensure family groups; couples and single people can be safely accommodated. Adjustments to toilets to comply with single use regulations. Cleaning materials, PPE including facemask available for staff and cleaners. A supply of face masks for visitors who have arrived unprepared.

**Children** – we would welcome children to attend Services, but parents should note that we are currently unable to operate a Sunday School and children will remain with the parents throughout the service. To this end the service will be shorter than we are used to. Parents will need to closely supervise children to ensure they observe the measures below and accompany them to the toilet. We fully understand that the current environment may not be deemed suitable for younger children and parents may choose to wait until measures can be relaxed further and Sunday School resumes before returning with their children.

### **Things you must do:**

**Book** - Please book a place for the service you wish to attend for yourself and any members of your family who are accompanying you – there are limited places, so please book early. This can be done easily via ChurchSuite, if you don't have access to ChurchSuite please phone Trevor who will book a place for you.

*Please remember to cancel your place if circumstances change and you cannot attend.*

- Please **do not attend** if you are suffering from any symptoms of Covid 19, are isolating because you have been in contact with Covid 19 or are required to isolate following travel abroad.
- We do not recommend you attend if you fall into the high-risk category.
- You should not gather with others on the carpark before, or after, the service.
- Please **observe social distancing** at all times both inside and outside the building. You may need to queue to enter and leave the building, so please bring an umbrella in case it is wet.
- Please **avoid physical contact** with anyone who is not a member of your own household. Unfortunately, those leading will not be able to shake hands with you after the service.
- There is **hand sanitizer available** at the entrance to the building which we would ask you to use on entry.
- We asked everyone to **wear a mask/ face covering** whilst in the building (unless you are exempted from wearing masks due to a health condition, children are exempted).
- Please arrive in good time so that we can safely show you to your seat, ready for the start of the service.
- Once seated, **please remain in your seat** until the services conclude and you are directed to leave the building.
- The toilet facilities will be open, although there are restrictions in place on use – please observe the notices and if possible, avoid using the toilets at the church.
- Please note information given on notices in the building and follow instructions of the stewards on the day.
- We are required by law to record your name address and telephone number **for track and trace purposes**. We will observe GDPR regulations with regard to collecting and storing personal information.

The Deacons are sad that we are unable to offer our usual welcome, refreshments and opportunity to share fellowship before and after services, and that the above restrictions and changes have to be in place at this time but we hope that you understand the need for them.