

Reopening Guidelines (July 2020)

As we begin offering in-person worship services again, it is our desire to honour the Lord, proceed with caution and follow government guidelines. This document outlines changes related to specific areas of our worship gatherings. These precautions are being put in place as we want to love one another and our neighbour. If you have any symptoms of sickness or have been around anyone who has shown symptoms, we ask you to remain home and watch online.

1. **Numbers attending will be limited due to social distancing guidelines.**

This will be managed by holding two services (10:00am and 11:30am) and allocating people (individuals and household groups) to a specific service, with older and vulnerable people attending the earlier service and family groups with young children attending the second service. Families with teens/adult children will be allocated to the first service to balance the numbers, with couples and small household groups (of 2-3 people) and individuals will be fitted into either service to maximise seating capacity.

2. **Entering and Exiting Building**

A one-way system will be in operation to avoid meeting people coming the opposite way. Entry will be through the front doors and exit through the back doors, so that people will walk around the building to return to the car park. We can revise this if the weather is very wet. Stewards will manage entry and exit of building so there are no bottlenecks or people congregating at doors. If queueing is necessary prior to entry, people will need to maintain a 2m distance (this will be marked out). Unnecessary repeated going in and out of the building should be avoided (kids can stay outside to play before the service). Exiting the building after the service will be managed by the stewards, possibly row by row with those nearest the door exiting first.

3. **Sanitiser**

will be provided at the front door (stewards to oversee).

4. **Face coverings (masks)**

It will be required at the first service and recommended for the second service (apart from children under 13 and any others who are unable to wear them). We will have masks available at the door for people who arrive without them.

5. **A temperature check**

Quickly performed before you enter the building. This does not involve contact and will take just a few seconds but if your temperature is over 38 degrees Celsius, then it is not appropriate to enter.

6. **Seating**

Benches/seats will be allocated for individual/family seating (individuals to be spaced out per guidelines, families can sit side by side on the same bench or in seats not spaced out). The seating will be planned for those who have confirmed attendance at the given meeting, based on our allocation.

7. **Advice regarding staying at home**

Please stay home if you have any symptoms of the virus, or have had contact with a person who has been confirmed with the virus or who is self-isolating or if you are quarantining following travel. If you are a front-line worker, please review your current working situation and possible exposure to the virus.

8. **Children**

No creche or Sunday club facilities will be provided for the time being. Weather permitting, a child could be taken outside if necessary. We request that people refrain from walking around the meeting space or corridors with young children. Families with children up to primary school age (12) will be requested to attend the second service (separate from that with older/vulnerable people). Parents need to supervise their own children as closely as possible. Running/games etc. are only allowed outside the building.

9. **Cleaning**

The school will clean the building each week following or prior to our Sunday morning service. We will have teams of people organised to carry out cleaning of all surfaces in between the first and second service (to include seating, door handles, toilets and any surfaces that may have been touched, depending on if there is communion etc.)

10. **Toilets**

Toilets are to be used only where necessary. Only one set each of male and female toilets will be open for use. We will limit numbers in toilets at any one time (stewards will monitor this). Wipes will be available to clean down toilet after use.

11. **Tea and Coffee**

none for time being.

12. **Notice sheets or book table**

No notice sheets or book table at door to minimize handling of items and congregating.

13. **Bibles**

People are requested to bring own Bibles as none will be provided. The sermon text could be displayed on screen during the reading.

14. **Waste disposal** (tissues, gloves, masks)

People will be requested to bring waste home for disposal. Small bags will be provided for this purpose.

15. **Services**

Shorter services (c. 40-45 mins) with extras like notices to be kept to a minimum to keep timing restrictions and to allow for the second service and the cleaning time required in between.

16. **Recording attendance**

We will be recording attendance at each meeting in case we have to provide this information for contact tracing. We will have a list (based on confirmed service attendance and seat allocation) of who will be due to attend each meeting and will have a designated person at each service to check all attendees off the list as they arrive. This can be done per household group, with one contact name and telephone number required per group/individual.

17. **Signage**

Covid-19 signs will be displayed (these are already in place in the school).

18. **Social distancing** during service/in the hall space

There will be clear allocation of seating (individual/family/household groups). For the period before and after service, we need to minimise people congregating in groups to chat. People will be requested to take their seats as soon as they come in and exit immediately after the service. We will request that if people want to chat, they do so outside, while maintaining a social distance. This should be kept to a short time and to the rear of the building as we don't want groups of people seen to be congregating in the car park at the front by people passing by.

19. **Those leading/participating in service**

Will be kept to a minimum (e.g. leading service, readers, musicians) and should avoid moving around. Musicians should not share instruments.

20. **Singing**

This is designated a higher risk activity with regard to virus spread and will not take place in the first few weeks. If the weather is fine, we could open the doors at the rear and sing outside at the end of the service with musicians inside.

21. **Collection basket(s)**

These will not be passed around but will be available in designated locations (by doors/end of rows).

22. **Communion**

Guidelines are yet to be issued regarding how this can be prepared and served safely. The use of gloves for the person preparing will be required and it will need to be served while maintaining social distance, possibly involving people queueing in family groups or with spacing to collect from a table. We plan to purchase pre-packed wafer and juice to start off, to simplify this until we can put a safe plan in place.

23. **Other church activities**

Prayer meetings will continue on Zoom as these are working well and we can't fit into a home with current social distancing requirements. Connect groups will finish on 30th June/1st July and a Summer Walks program will be arranged.

24. **Streaming service**

We will continue to stream the morning service for those who need to stay home. This will probably be the second of the two services.