

Winister Rev Robert Zachar · Tel: 01/95/4225/3 www.sittingbournemethodist.org.uk

Returning to Church Services

The Government allowed services in a church building to commence from the 4th July 2020, but without singing. We recognise that the risk from Covid-19 is different for each person and is dependent on factors such as age, sex, medical conditions, ethnicity, etc. No-one should feel under any pressure or obligation to return until they are comfortable with returning, (see personal risk assessment document enclosed). Indeed, with social distancing the church cannot accommodate everyone who would normally attend. Therefore, if you do intend to join us it would be really helpful if you would book a seat by 'phoning

Paul Skipp on 07939 604253 but we would not want to turn anyone away.

Circuit services will continue online for those at home.

Covid-19 is a new risk and as such, under the "Health and Safety at Work Act", we are required, by law, to undertake a risk assessment and implement all necessary actions to minimise the risk. A Covid-19 risk assessment has been undertaken and approved by "Church Council". A number of actions are required to be implemented to make attending church Covid safe. These are summarised below:

- You should not attend if you have any Covid symptoms or are required to self-isolate.
- Lines will be put on the floor to help achieve 2m social distance when entering and leaving the building.
- Signs will be put up to remind people of the need for social distancing and hand washing.
- Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned before and after each service e.g. door handles.
- Where possible, doors will be left open to avoid the need to touch them.
- Hand sanitiser will be provided to be used on entry.
- The government currently requires masks to be worn inside, including at places of worship. Please bring your own mask. Pedal bins will be provided for disposal of masks, tissues etc.
- Stewards will manage the movement of people. Please follow their instructions to keep everyone safe.
- The Steward will log a name and contact details for every household attending. This is a government requirement for "Test and Trace".
- The chairs have been arranged to be 2m from the next seat. Only people from the same household should sit together. Depending on the household sizes that attend, capacity is limited to between 30 and 40 people. Please do not move any seats.
- Hymn books and bibles will not be provided. All words will be on the screen. Please bring your own bible if you want one. Singing of hymns is not permitted, but recorded hymns may be played.
- A collection bag will not be passed around. A plate will be located near the door for the collection. Please use Direct Debits or bank transfers if possible.
- Please do not enter the lounge or rear of the building unless there is an emergency. This is to prevent crosscontamination between different building users in these areas.
- The church will have been quarantined for 3 days before the service, which kills the virus. The welcome area may be used more frequently and will be sanitised where 3 day quarantine is not possible.

If you have any questions regarding the above please contact either Rev Robert or Peter Price Property Secretary.