

Sittingbourne Methodist Back to Church – April 21

As infection rates continue to fall, Vaccinations increase and Government restrictions begin to lift, we are beginning a return to worshipping in church.

We recognise that the risk from Covid-19 is still not zero and is still different for each person. No-one should feel under any pressure or obligation to return until they are comfortable with returning. Indeed, we still need to social distance in church and cannot accommodate everyone who would normally attend.

Circuit services will continue online for those at home.

Covid-19 was a new risk and as such, under the “Health and Safety at Work Act”, we were required, by law, to undertake a risk assessment and implement all necessary actions to minimise the risk. The Covid-19 risk assessment was undertaken and approved by “Church Council”. All the actions identified are still required to make the church Covid secure. These are summarised below:

- You should not attend if you have any Covid symptoms or are required to self-isolate.
- There are lines on the floor to help achieve 2m social distance when entering and leaving the building.
- Signs have been put up to remind people of the need for social distancing and hand washing.
- The government allow us to worship, but not to socialise.
- 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.
- A hand sanitiser dispenser is 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”. There is also a QR code at the entrance.
- 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.
- Currently we operate a booking system for each service.
- 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 necessary. This is to prevent cross-contamination 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 a 3 day quarantine is not possible.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Minister or Property Secretary.