

Risk Assessment for Covid-secure Church Services and Meetings

Capacity

This is to assess the limits of how many people can safely meet together in the buildings.

- To keep the government recommended social distance. This will limit the number of people who can meet in the building for a service or other meeting (e.g. Prayer Meeting & Bible Study).*
- Chairs will be spaced at the government recommended social distance* although family groups (bubbles) may be grouped together.
- Two services will be held on Sundays so that regular worshippers can attend one of them.

Control & Cleanliness

This is to assess measures to prevent the potential spread of Covid-19 among worshippers:

- **No hymnbooks or Bibles** will be available. People will be encouraged to bring their own Bibles. Bible readings may be displayed on the screen.
- There will be **no singing**†. Hymns may be displayed on the screen.
- **A temporary record of worshippers** for each service will be kept for 21 days for track and trace purposes. Regular worshippers will be asked to give prior notice of which service they will attend.
- Worshippers will be asked to keep a **safe distance** between other worshippers **when entering and leaving the building**.
- Worshippers will be asked not to gather in groups both inside and outside the building.
- The room will be kept well ventilated.
- From 8 August, in England, it is mandatory for worshippers **to wear a face covering** unless they have a respiratory condition; young children are also excluded. Other protective measures may be put in place if needed, e.g. perspex screen in front of pulpit
- There will be no **refreshments** before or after services, both mid-week and Sundays.
- Those who have **symptoms of Covid-19** should not attend worship services or other meetings but self-isolate with other members of their family and arrange to be tested.
- **Automatic hand sanitisers** will be provided at the entranceway which worshippers will be asked to use on entering and leaving the building.
- **Automatic hand sanitisers and paper towels** will be provided in the toilets, with suitable waste receptacles. Anti-bacterial wipes and a spray will be provided for cleaning surfaces after each use.
- **Surfaces will be cleaned** (including window cills, pulpit, door handles etc) after each service and **chairs exchanged** for the evening service after the morning service.
- **Signs** reminding people about cleanliness and social distancing will be in place.

Care

For people who are particularly **vulnerable** we will advise them of the risks involved in worshipping with others. If they prefer to stay at home we will ensure that they are able to have a recording of the service. Also for all worshippers recordings will be made of services and Bible studies.

Notification. A copy of this risk assessment will be displayed and also posted on the website. The person leading the service will remind worshippers of basic instructions. A letter will be sent to worshippers.

Review. This risk assessment will be reviewed in the light of further government amendments.

Date: 1 August 2020

*NB: The recommended social distance at the time of preparing this Risk Assessment is 2 metres, or 1 metre+ mitigating factors. The maximum capacity of the building was assessed at 20 people.

†Under current government guidelines singing is not permitted.