

Beechwood Chapel - Plan

Covid-Safe Sunday Meetings

Date of issue: 07/08/2020
Date for review: 30/08/2020

Below is a brief outline of what measures will be in place for this new-look Sunday meeting, which should be read along with our Risk Assessment for meeting, both of which will be available on our website (www.beechwoodchapel.org).

Although we believe that we have put appropriate measures in place to minimise the risk there is no such thing as zero risk, so we will all need to work together to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Who can and can't come

All people are free to come if they wish. However we strongly advise everyone to follow the Government's guidance, including continuing shielding from home if you are particularly vulnerable, following social distancing and wearing face coverings.

Watching from home

We will continue to provide an online service through our Youtube Channel for those unable or unwilling to come. This will be a live stream of the service that takes place in the building.

Social Distancing

Social Distancing is still an essential part of all of life as we work together to beat the virus. On arrival and entry, during the service as you sit in households, and at the end as you leave, we will be following the 1m+ guidance, encouraging people to keep 2m apart where possible.

Where it is not possible to keep 2m apart we will follow 1m+ guidance including:

- windows open for ventilation,
- no face-to-face seating, instead side to side or front to back,
- people to remain in seating area as much as possible,
- all movement is carefully stewarded.

Stewards

We will have stewards on the main and inner doors to help people manage social distancing, and direct you where to sit. They are working to ensure everything runs as smoothly and safely as possible for everyone, so please listen to, and respect, them as they direct you. Please only move from your seating area under the directions of a steward.

Arrival

On arrival you will need to queue in a socially distant manner outside until a Steward directs you to enter. On entry everyone must wash their hands with the antibacterial wash provided. You will then be ushered into the main room and directed to a seating area. Once you have been allocated a seating area you must not move to sit elsewhere.

Register and Contact Details

For the Government's Track and Trace service we will take a register of all attendees in case an attendee has a positive Covid-19 test. This register will include your name and contact number, and will only be kept for 21 days before being destroyed.

Donations

Government advice is that if people are able to give digitally rather than cash that is preferable. For those who wish to give cash donations envelopes will be provided to put your money in, and a basket to deposit the envelopes. This will be overseen by a Steward, and antibacterial hand wash will also be provided to use after making your donation. These donations will then be secured at the Chapel for 72 hours, to minimise any contamination risk, before being counted and banked.

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During the service

During the service people must remain in their allocated seating area. The Leader of the service will direct everyone what to do throughout, but please especially remember that it is not currently deemed safe to sing, so please avoid the temptation to join in singing along to any songs that might be played!

If it is essential for you to move or leave please do so as quietly and safely as possible, keeping apart from others, and follow any directions given to you by a Steward.

Communion will be offered in individual cups for both the bread (gluten free) and wine (alcohol free). This will be prepared and distributed by a Leader in gloves, and placed on a table in front of you to minimise any risk of contamination.

Toilets

The toilets will be available for use, however please be aware that Government advice is to wait and go at home if at all possible.

The toilets will be opened for one person at a time, managed by the Stewards, so please follow their directions. You must also wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water afterwards, and also use the antibacterial hand gel once you exit the toilet block before returning to your seat.

Children

Children must remain with their parent/guardians at all times, and it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure their child follows the safety guidelines.

Although we are aiming to make the service accessible for children, we would also advise parent/guardians to bring quiet activities (e.g. colouring) for them in case they get fractious.

Departure

The government advice is that as soon as the service ends people must depart, and so we will be following this as the Leader and Stewards direct people to leave safely in a socially distant manner.

Please remain in your seating area until a Steward directs you to leave through the main exit. On exit everyone must wash their hands with the antibacterial wash provided.

The government has updated its guidance to allow churches to have gatherings of more than six people/two households outside. While we will be continuing to ask people not to stay and talk inside after the service people may stay on the grounds to talk, as long as they continue to social distance and do not obstruct any doorways or paths.

Face coverings

From 8th August the Government is making it compulsory to wear face coverings in places of worship, in an effort to reduce the spread of Coronavirus. This means that everyone should wear a face covering when they come to a service at Beechwood Chapel except for children 11 and under, or people with legitimate reason not to. It is not the responsibility of the Chapel to police mask wearing, however refusing to wear a covering without legitimate reason risks a £100 spot fine if you are stopped by the police, and we would strongly encourage everyone to wear coverings, whatever your personal views, as a practical way of loving your neighbour.

Government advice allows people to remove masks for eating and drinking, which means that we will be able to do this to enable us to continue serving Communion each week.

Following the Government's guidelines, as we have regular attendees and viewers who rely on lip-reading, facial expressions and clear sound to understand what is being said, Stewards and people speaking from the front in the service will not obscure their mouths, but will instead use clear plastic face shields.