

Barrack Street, Warwick, CV34 4TH

Registered charity number 1147912



20 August 2020

Dear friends,

We hope you're keeping well and enjoying a little more freedom.

Since the Prime Minister announced that places of worship could reopen from 4 July, we've worked with the Circuit Coronavirus Action Group (CCAG) on a plan to reopen church for twice weekly prayer and reflection from Saturday 29 August. The sessions will be on Saturdays and Wednesdays from 2pm to 4pm. The first hour of the Wednesday session is reserved for the people who consider themselves vulnerable and have been avoiding contact with people outside their household.

After such a long time away, we're excited to making use of our building again. However, this will not be a normal church service.

The church will be open for 2 hours at a time and laid out with 3 display point intended to provide stimuli for prayer and reflection. The idea is that people come along at any point in that 2 hour period and make their way around the 3 displays pausing to take in the material and pray.

Once you have made your way around you leave by the indicated exit. It is expected that a visit will not exceed 15 minutes.

Risk assessment

In accordance with Government guidance, we have undertaken a detailed COVID-19 risk assessment to make sure the church is COVID-19 secure. This risk assessment is available on request.

The church building

The only parts of the building we'll be opening at this time are the main worship space and the toilets. The rest of the building will remain out of bounds.

We've undertaken some general measures to reduce the risk of the virus spreading:

- to improve ventilation, doors will be left open (unless the weather prevents this)
- seats will be wiped down immediately each use and touch points will be wiped as appropriate.
- the number of people, excluding stewards, making their way through the 3 positions will be limited.

Stewarding

We are asking people over the age of 70, or with certain underlying health conditions not to steward or help with these sessions. This is because government advice still states that this group should continue to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside their household.

Should I come?

We'd love to see you again, but before deciding to come to church, please check the [latest government guidance](#) for your age group and circumstances.

Current government guidance (as at 9 July) for clinically vulnerable states:

- Some people, including those aged 70 and over, those with certain underlying conditions and pregnant women, are clinically vulnerable, meaning they may be at higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. As we continue to ease restrictions, this group should continue to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside their household.

And for clinically extremely vulnerable:

- From 1 August advice for clinically extremely vulnerable people will move in line with advice to those who are clinically vulnerable. In practice, this means staying at home as much as possible, and if people do go out, taking particular care to minimise contact with others outside their household (unless you are in a support bubble) and robustly practising good, frequent hand washing.

Feeling unwell?

Please do not come to church if you are showing symptoms of COVID-19 or feeling unwell.

Getting to church

Please make your own way to church and only share a lift with someone from your own household or support bubble.

Face masks

You are required to wear masks while in the building.

Arriving at church

Please use the main door which is marked with an entrance sign. If you find yourself having to queue, please remember leave a 2m gap.

Entering the building

Please do not enter the building until a steward calls you. On entry, you will find a hand sanitiser point. Please use it to minimise the spread of the virus. To assist with government Track and Trace (if someone reports symptoms of COVID-19), a record will need to be made of your name and time of arrival. In accordance with government guidance, this information will be retained for 21 days then destroyed.

Flow through the building

The flow is clockwise. From the entrance hall you will enter the main worship space through the door next to the organ. The displays should be visited in the order they are laid out. There will be seats available at each one. Once you have finished at the final display move from the worship space to the entrance hall using the other door and then exit the building. There will also be a hand sanitiser point by the exit.

Signs

You will see a number of signs around the building. They are designed to direct you and keep you, and other building users safe. Please follow any instructions.

Coughs and sneezes

Please catch any coughs or sneezes in a tissue or in your elbow. Used tissues should be put in a bin. There will be one by the exit.

Toilets

Should you need to use the toilets they will be available. There will be additional signs to guide you.

Church full

The Prayer and Reflection sessions are designed so that people can come at any time while the church is open, spend a relatively short time in the building with a small number of people and then leave. Clearly it is possible for too many people to arrive at once causing a short delay. Please don't be offended if you're refused entry.

Collection

No cash collection will be taken.

Online and mailed out services

What we are doing does not replace the current online and mailed out services. Those will be continuing for the foreseeable future.

We appreciate that there is a lot to take in, and that you may need to prayerfully consider whether these events are suitable for you.

Yours in fellowship,

The Church Leadership Team

Appendix

Questions and Answers

Question 1

I'm over 70, am I allowed to come to church?

Answer

Before deciding to come to church, please check the [latest government guidance](#) for your age group and circumstances. Some people, including those aged 70 and over, those with certain underlying conditions and pregnant women, are clinically vulnerable, meaning they may be at higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. As we continue to ease restrictions, this group should continue to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside their household.

Question 2

I'm over 70, fit and healthy and would like to help steward. Surely that's my decision, why can't I?

We are asking people over the age of 70, or with certain underlying health conditions not to steward or help. This is because government advice still states that this group should continue to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside their household. We hope this will be relaxed soon but at present we ask that those over 70, or with certain underlying health conditions refrain from helping with worship.

Question 3

Do I have to wear a face mask?

Answer

It is a requirement that people use a face mask when visiting indoor public places. This includes churches. Face masks will be available at the door if you haven't brought your own.

Question 4

Which door can I use?

Answer

The only entry door will be the main door into the entrance hall. The smaller door in to the entrance hall and the hall door are being used as exit only.

Question 5

Will the toilet be available?

Answer

As visits to the church will be relatively short, we don't expect many people to need to use the toilets. However, they will be available.

The toilets in use will be the disabled toilet, the main ladies' toilet and the gents' toilet. The downstairs ladies' toilet will not be in use.

One person at a time should use the toilets in question. People waiting should not use the disabled as a short cut owing to the increased touching risk associated with that toilet.

The outer doors of both the gents and the ladies will be wedged open to reduce touching risk and enable people to leave once they have washed their hands without touching anything.

The right-hand cubicle in the ladies will be out of use so that feet can't be seen from the corridor.

Anyone waiting for the ladies should queue in the hall as signed and marked so as to leave the corridor free.

Anyone waiting for the gents should queue in the lower room as signed and marked so as to leave the corridor free.

Access from the church vestibule will be by going up the corridor and back along the Barrack Street pavement. As people will have to operate the latch when passing out on to Barrack Street they should sanitise their hands on entry to the vestibule from the street.

People reaching the top of the link corridor should give way to anyone walking from the toilets to the street door.

People using the stairs down to the gents should give way to anyone coming up.

Question 6

What about children, are they still welcome?

Answer

Yes, children are welcome, but they must stay with their parent/carer at all times.