

Newhouse Baptist Church

Provisions for reopening the Church building for services

In seeking to reopen the Church building at Newhouse the Church Officers and Trustees have taken into consideration the Government's Guidelines for the safe use of places of worship during the pandemic and have also found guidance from Christian organisations to be very helpful, especially in the preparation of the required Risk Assessment.

We have set out the main elements below of what we consider to be safe practice for our meetings together and would stress the need to comply with these provisions when you decide to gather with us once again at our Church building. Please remember that if you do not feel able to meet at this time, or comply with the new procedures, you will be able to continue to participate in the services in another format.

Please **DON'T COME:**

A) If you are suffering from any of the following, PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE CHURCH BUILDING, but isolate at home.

- **A high temperature;**
- **A new continuous cough;**
- **A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.**

B) If you have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Track and Trace

C) If you have received a positive throat/nose swab test result in the past 14 days.

Please give **careful consideration** to whether or not to attend a Church service if the following applies to you:

People who are shielding, those who are over 70 and other vulnerable groups are reminded that they are more susceptible to serious outcomes, should they catch the virus. These groups are advised to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside of their household. They should consider whether or not this is the right time for them to return to meeting together - at a time when the virus is in a phase of acceleration; or whether they may choose to continue to worship with us through live stream or by DVD.

This is a decision for each individual, to be made free from pressure.

What safety procedures can I expect to be in place if I come back to Church at this time?

- 1) A face covering (the regulations require a mask, not shield) should be worn from the time you get out of your car, until you get back into it to go home.
- 2) Social distancing of 2 metres (1 metre where 2 metres is not possible) will apply from the car park onwards. No handshakes, hugs or kisses please!
- 3) If there is a queue to enter the building, you may wish to remain in your car until the queue reduces.
- 4) Before you enter you will be asked a few questions to confirm that you do not have any of the Covid-19 symptoms described above. Your name and telephone contact details will also be confirmed, in order to have a complete list of attendees, should they be required for contact tracing purposes.
- 5) Please use the hand sanitiser before entering.
- 6) A one way system will be in operation for entering and exiting the building.
- 7) Please wait at the entrance until called forward by a steward to be shown to a seat. (We will need to record your seat location for possible Track and Trace purposes). Please go directly to your allocated seat without stopping for conversation. The maintenance of social distancing is vital.
- 8) Please remain in your seat throughout the service.
- 9) There will be no singing during the service. Instead, we will listen to the Hymn tunes and follow the words in our hearts and minds.
- 10) We would encourage you to bring your own Bible, which must be taken home with you after the service.
- 11) When the service is over please remain in your seat until your row is called out.
- 12) Hand sanitiser will be found at the point of exit.
- 13) No offering will be collected during the service, but you are invited to use the offering box/container at the exit door, or to make payments directly to the Church bank account.
- 14) Upon exit from the Church please maintain social distance in the car park from others who are not part of your household. Please be aware that some from the local community will be witnessing our responsible behaviour outside the Church.
- 15) The Church kitchen will be closed and so no water or glasses will be available. If you may like water to drink, please bring a bottle of water with you.

16) Whenever possible we will seek to increase the ventilation inside the Church by leaving a window/windows open during the service. You may like to dress accordingly!

17) Please do not leave your coat or hat unattended; these should be taken with you at all times.

18) Currently we have no facilities for young children, so their attendance will be discouraged at this time. If visitors arrive with children they will be asked to ensure that the children remain with them at all times.

Newhouse Church Officers

29/9/2020