

Marnhull Methodist Church

Covid19 Risk Assessment

Marnhull Methodist Church has been closed following the UK Government legislation and direction from The Methodist Church of March 2020 as a result of the Corona Virus and Covid19 disease pandemic. More recently the UK Government has relaxed the restrictions and churches are now able to open subject to certain conditions including carrying out a Risk Assessment and identifying conditions and procedures to mitigate the risk of infection from the virus.

Accordingly, a Risk assessment has been carried out by members of the church. The Assessment considers the whole building known as Marnhull Methodist Church but concentrates on the risks and conditions and procedures to be put in place to hold Worship in the Church (sanctuary) and use of the Hall by hirers. In particular the assessment has considered the practical aspects of maintaining the UK Government recommendation a 2 metre separation between individuals in different households (or bubbles) and the need to maintain very high standards of hygiene by the use of anti-bacterial sprays, wipes etc.

The Building

The building consists of a vestibule, sanctuary, vestry, hall, bridge cupboard, kitchen, passageway, cleaner's cupboard, men's toilet, ladies toilet, stairs, upstairs room 1, upstairs room 2. For worship only the **vestibule, sanctuary, hall** will be used, plus kitchen, passageway and toilets in emergency. For hall hirers only the **hall** will be used plus kitchen, passageway and toilets in emergency. Other areas are considered 'out of bounds'.

Worship

On arrival at the church, a clear '**Entrance sign will be displayed**'. If there is a queue people should observe the **2 metre spacing recommendation as indicated on the pathway**.

In the vestibule a **hand sanitiser, paper towels and bin will be available**. Regular members will have their **names checked off on a register** containing contact details, visitors will be asked to **provide contact details**.

From 8th August it has become mandatory for all worshippers to wear masks/face-coverings (unless having medical exemption). This will be communicated to all regular worshippers. **Supply of disposable masks will be available** in the entrance area for those who are unaware of the requirement, or who forget to bring their mask.

A box will be provided for freewill offerings.

No hymn books will be issued and people will be asked to provide their own bibles.

People will be shown to their seats in the sanctuary. A **seating plan** will be in operation for regular members which will be used for each worship service. Visitors will be shown to other seating. All seating has been arranged to observe the 2 metre recommendation.

Anti – bacterial wipes will be available in the sanctuary.

Preaching will take place from a lectern which will be positioned at least 2 metres from the nearest congregant.

People will leave the sanctuary via the door into the hall and thereby exit the church building via the hall outside door. **Hand sanitiser, paper towels and bin** will be available at the exit.

After the worship service the sanctuary may be used for socialising ensuring 2 metre spacing is observed at all times.

Doors will be left open if weather permits to ensure improved ventilation.

It is planned that the vestibule and sanctuary will be used once a week and will be cleaned once a week.

The toilet facilities are available but should only be used in an emergency. **Hand sanitiser, paper towels and bin** will be available in the passageway outside the toilets.

After the service all door handles will be wiped with **anti – bacterial wipes**.

Hall Hirers

This assessment and resulting conditions and procedures apply to all groups hiring the hall.

On the basis of 2 metre safe distancing, the maximum hall capacity is 12 people. Depending on the group activity the maximum allowable number in the hall may be less and is to be determined by a Risk Assessment carried out by the person in charge of each group.

For people arriving at the hall, **hand sanitiser, paper towels and bin** will be available inside the entrance door. People must leave their **contact details at the entrance or sign a register**.

The conduct of the group will be determined by the group leader and detailed in their Risk Assessment ensuring compliance with UK Government Covid 19 policy at the time.

The kitchen and toilet facilities are only to be used in an emergency. **Hand sanitiser, paper towels and bin** will be available in the passageway. **Anti – bacterial wipes** will be available.

After use by a group, the hall floor, door handles and all surfaces likely to have been touched must be wiped with an **anti – bacterial solution** provided.

Risk Assessment carried out and Mitigation Procedures established July 17, 2020.

R J Williams, Property Steward.

H C Williams, Treasurer
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K Plowman, Church Member

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