



December 2020

Worship at Wesley during the Covid-19 pandemic

As part of the inclusive church network, we are committed to seeking to enable all to worship. Our 10.30am morning worship and community nights can be accessed online so you can worship in your own home. However, we recognise that not everyone has access to technology and therefore, there will be opportunities for those who wish to worship in the building on Sundays and midweek to do so as we go forward. This leaflet will help you prepare for attending worship in the building.

The best way to get up-to-date information on services and events at Wesley is by joining both the eBulletin mailing list and Christine's pastoral mailing list. If you would like to be added to these lists please contact the office on office@wesleychester.co.uk or 01244 323037 or contact Christine.dutton@methodist.org.uk. If you are not on email and would like details or information please ring Linda in the office between 9.00am and 1.00pm Tuesday to Friday.

Worship at Wesley during the Covid-19 pandemic

We have worked really hard to put in place a number of measures to minimise the risk of Covid-19. On each occasion there will be Wesley stewards and volunteers available to help you if you have any questions. Please work with us to keep Wesley as safe as possible by:

- Staying at home if you have any symptoms or don't feel well.
- Bringing a face covering* and wearing it upon entering the building, in the Worship Area and when moving around the building.
- Practising good hygiene, washing your hands and using hand sanitiser on entering and frequently while in the building.
- Observing our one-way system and 2 metre social distancing.
- Letting us know if you are planning to attend worship in the building.

**We recognise there are some exemptions to wearing face coverings*

What will church be like?

A lot of work has gone into planning how we can worship together in church and still keep each other safe. This means it will be quite different from how it was before the pandemic. If you are planning to attend worship in the building, you need to let us know. Please read this leaflet to find out what this will be like. It is a lot to take in, so please ask if you have any questions.

How do I let you know that I am planning to attend worship?

So that we can manage spacing and numbers, please let us know via the 'Worship' page on our website, email office@wesleychester.co.uk or call/text 07858 529503 by midday on the Friday before the service. If we have reached our maximum capacity, we will let you know. We will need to record your phone contact number for 'NHS Test and Trace'.

We will have a steward to assist you on arrival. Please wait to be seated, observing 2 metres social distancing. It will be lovely to see each other, but please remember that unfortunately we are not able to stop and chat, shake hands or hug! We will enter one person/family group at a time, using the main church door. Please observe 2 metre distancing on the ramp if you have to wait.

What do I need to do when I come in?

- Make sure you are wearing a face covering, correctly positioned to cover your nose and mouth. If you have forgotten your own, we will have one available for you.
- Please use the hand sanitiser provided as you come in.
- On arrival we will check that we have your contact details already listed. If not, we will record them for 'NHS Test and Trace'.

Do I need to wear a mask?

- Members of the congregation need to wear a face covering at all times (*unless exempted*).
- Worship leaders who are preaching, reading, leading prayers or leading music will remove their face coverings whilst doing so.

Can I use the toilets?

- Yes. Please wash your hands for at least 20 seconds after use.

Where can I sit?

- A steward will guide you to a seat. Chairs are set out to maintain 2 metres social distance. Please do not sit with anyone who is not in your household/social bubble.
- Please fill up from the front of the church first and sit in the next available row.
- We are required to have doors and windows open to maintain good ventilation, so it may well be a little draughtier and chillier than usual in the church; you may want to wear warm clothes.

What about singing?

- Congregational singing is not permitted at the moment. However, you will be able to follow the words to the hymns and songs on the screens. Wesley hymn books will not be available, but if you wish you can bring your own.

What if I am doing a reading?

- If you have been asked to read the Bible in the service, please bring your own Bible or printed copy of the reading and take it home with you afterwards.
- Shared use of Bibles or microphones is not permitted. You will be briefed on which microphone you will be using.

Is there a collection?

- An offering will not be taken up during the service.
- If you wish, you may leave your offering in the collection plate near the exit door to the atrium as you leave. If you are able to give to the church directly via the bank this would be much appreciated. Please speak to a Steward or to our Treasurer.

Will we be having Holy Communion?

- Not at the moment. We hope to offer some Communion services early in 2021.

How long will the service last?

- The service will last a maximum of 40 minutes.

What if I feel unwell?

- If you are taken ill during the service please take your possessions and go straight to Wesley's foyer, where a steward will attend to you. If you need assistance raise a hand.

What happens at the end of the service?

- Please wait until you are asked to leave by a Steward. You will be asked to leave in rows from the front first, exiting via the ramp or steps to the left at the front of the church and then out through the atrium one-way system.
- Hand sanitiser will be available for use as you leave the Worship Area.
- A collection plate will be available near the way out to the atrium. (Monies will be counted in accordance with Wesley's Covid-secure Risk Assessment).
- Please maintain a 2 metre social distance at all times as you leave.
- Please disperse quickly from Wesley as you leave and do not stay and chat (*i.e. no lingering or mingling outside your own household /social bubble*).
- Once everyone has left the building, a nominated steward will clean touch points in the Worship Area, general public areas and toilets.