

# **Covid Guidance for Oakwood Church**

(28/03/2021)

**This guidance has been put together to help aid our understand and approach to gathering again for in-person services.**

## **The 'new normal' for Sunday services**

- The service will begin as usual at 10.30am and its duration will be approximately 1 hour.
- In advance of the service we ask you to book your seat/space online. We will register people as they arrive so we are able to track & trace if needed. If people attend without previously booking-in, we will seek to accommodate them but it cannot be guaranteed.
- We are all required to wear face masks for the duration of our time within the building - exceptions apply to those involved in leading the service, leading worship or preaching
- On arrival you will be met by our Welcome Team who will show you to your seat. All the seating in the hall is in zones to help with social distancing.
- If a number of people arrive at the same time then we ask that you form an orderly and socially-distanced queue outside the main entrance.
- Hand sanitiser will be provided in the foyer when you arrive.
- There is a one-way system in place to help us move around the building, so please follow the arrows on the floor.
- We will all need to stay in our 'zone' for the duration of the service - thought you are free to go to the toilet at any time.
- Bring extra layers of clothing as the doors will be open for the duration of the service for ventilation purposes.
- We are using plastic seating so do feel free to bring your own cushions for a more comfortable experience; do remember to take them home with you also.
- There will be no congregational singing during the service. We will be using recorded and live music/singing from the worship team. As congregational singing is regarded as a high-risk activity, we appreciate you refraining from singing aloud at this time.
- An offering box will be available as you exit the building should you wish to use it.
- Once the service has concluded, we are required to leave the building without further delay. As you leave, hand sanitiser will be available for you to use.

## **Communion:**

- We will share communion together from time to time. Further directions will be given as to the practical steps in doing this.

**Facilities:**

- The rectangle room, café, kitchen and games room will not be accessible.
- The disabled toilet and the crèche toilet are the only toilets open for use.

**Social Distancing:**

Government guidance states: *'Where possible, adhere to social distancing of at least 2 metres or 1 metre with risk mitigation (where 2 metres is not viable) between households.'*

This 2 metre rule will be adhered to in terms of seating unless you are from the same household or are in a 'support bubble'; defined by the government as 'single adult households – *in other words adults who live alone or with dependent children only – can continue to form an exclusive 'support bubble' with one other household*'.

**Government advice for those who are particularly vulnerable:**

- There should be a particular focus on protecting people who are clinically vulnerable and more likely to develop severe illness, including people who are aged 70 or older, regardless of medical conditions.
- Individuals who fall within this group are advised to keep social contacts low and maintain social distancing from those they do not live with.
- There is a further group of people who are defined, also on medical grounds, as clinically extremely vulnerable to coronavirus – that is, people with specific serious health conditions. There is additional advice that clinically extremely vulnerable people must follow.
- If you are clinically vulnerable, you could be at higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. Those who are clinically extremely vulnerable should follow resumed shielding guidance and should not attend work, school, college or university. You should limit the time you spend outside the home. You should only go out for medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential. For further information, please see guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19.

We have completed a risk assessment in advance of opening the building for public worship; you can view a copy on our website.

If you do not feel comfortable with these measures then please do not feel obligated to attend. This guidance is intended to aid you in your decision making. To discuss anything further, do contact Simon on 07973 693112 to discuss.

**Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.**