

Here at CEC we have been working towards regathering for worship.

This document is to outline the changes, what to expect when you come to church on a Sunday and what we are asking you to do as we follow the current government guidelines. Please remember they are for your safety and for the good of all people. It is right that we follow the guidelines as best as we are able, as it is a good witness to the wider community and shows Christian love to one another as we care for each other as we do this.



The biblical model of church is a gathered group of people coming together for Bible teaching, worship and mutual encouragement and fellowship. That doesn't happen with just watching online. Having said that, we will live stream the service as we are not yet able to accommodate everyone coming to church due to following the social distancing regulations.

Sunday service arrangements.

- We will have one morning service, initially. The service will start at **10am**.
- Please arrive from **9.30am** onwards and before 9.50. This helps us with a staggered arrival. There will be a social distancing queuing system set up if there are people before you. Please wait in the queue, remembering to maintain a social distance from other households around you, and you will then be asked to enter the church building by a greeter.
- Please wear a face mask when you enter the church building and wear it at all times while you are in the building. If you do not have a face mask, or you forget to bring one with you, we have disposable masks available for you to use. (If you are exempt from wearing a face mask as per the government guidelines, just let the greeter know)
- On your arrival you will be welcomed by a greeter who will be wearing a face mask and disposable gloves. They will ask you to use the hand sanitiser.
- You will then be taken to your seat by a steward. Please remain in your seat throughout the duration of the service unless you need the toilet.
- Please bring with you a Bible (Church Bibles cannot be used at the moment), and a pen to take notes. We will still produce a printed outline which will be on your seat.
- Toilets. These are available but with social distancing. In the ladies toilet, one cubicle is available. In the men's toilet one urinal and the cubicle are available. The disabled toilet is also available for all, but with priority given to disabled users. Minimal use of the toilets is encouraged, where possible, and if required to be used, please indicate your need to the steward who will guide you along the correct route.
- Refreshments. At the moment we are unable to serve tea and coffee after the service. If you require a drink, you are welcome to bring with you a bottle of water.
- Coats. Please place your coat over the back of, or underneath your chair. At the moment, you cannot hang it up in the corridor by the toilets.
- In the building there will be a one-way system in place. You enter the building through the main front doors, as usual. But you will exit the building via the side door to the left of the platform which leads out to the car park. The one way system is also to be used if going to the toilet during the service.
- At the end of the service, there will be an opportunity to say hello to people by waving and talking to the people behind and in front of where you are seated. But you must keep to the 2-metre social distancing and stay in your seat. You must not hug people, shake hands or have physical contact with anyone outside of your bubble/family group. Please also refrain from shouting across the church at any time.
- Exiting the building. Once the service is finished the regulations do expect us to leave promptly. A steward will dismiss each row at a time. Please wait until the steward guides you, so that social distancing can still be observed. Make your way out through the side door as directed. Please take everything with you including the outline, any drinks, rubbish etc and not leave anything behind.

The actual worship service.

What can you expect in the service?

- We are aiming to have live worship with our band and at other times we may use worship videos.
- At the moment the guidelines do not permit congregational singing. But I have some creative ideas about how we can still worship without actually singing.
- We are also looking at adding a Children's talk. (For info on Children's groups on a Sunday, see below).
- The service will last for about an hour.
- The offering. We will not take up an offering in the way we did before lockdown. Instead there will be a box for you to put your offering in as you leave.
- The Lord's Supper. At the moment we have no plans to do this initially. But once the service is up and running, we will look at how to do this in a way that is safe as we know how important the Lord's Supper is for us all.

Booking your seat. You can now book your seat.

Due to the limited amount of seating you must pre-book your seat. You cannot just turn up without a confirmed seat. There are two ways to do this.

- Ring the church office on 023 9226 2188 and the Church Administrator will take your booking. You will also be asked a couple of questions and how many seats you are booking. If ringing outside of office hours, please leave a message on the answer machine ensuring you leave a detailed message stating how many seats you require and the names of the people the seats are for.
- Email the church office on cowplainchurch@googlemail.com Please include your telephone number, how many seats you would like to book and the names of the people the seats are for.

Please note that your seats may not be confirmed immediately due to the seating layout in the building. Please ensure you have received confirmation of your seats before arriving on a Sunday.

There are also some other things to note about booking a seat.

- Each week we will open the booking system on the Monday for the following Sunday. You cannot book seats, for example, three weeks in advance.
- Last day to book a seat is Thursday afternoon. This allows us time to arrange the seating layout based on the weekly bookings.
- We are seeking to run as fair a booking system as possible. Therefore, seats are booked on a first come first served basis. However, if you have been the week before, we will respectfully ask you to go on a reserve list for that week. If we have space, we will contact you to offer you a seat. It is very likely that you will not be able to come to church each Sunday. We would hope that with more social distancing freedom and adding a second worship service at some point soon we will be able to accommodate more people.
- NHS Test & Trace. We will ask your consent to keep your details for 21 days just in case somebody in the church contracts Covid-19 and you need to be advised to self-isolate.
- Please do not come to church if you are displaying any of the coronavirus symptoms or if you are in the [vulnerable category](#). We encourage you to continue to seek medical advice and follow government guidelines.

Children and young people.

We are a church for all people of all ages and therefore children and young people are welcome to come to a church service. However, at the moment, we are unable to offer Crèche, Sunday Club or Relish. We hope to do this as soon as we can and as soon as the guidelines allow us to. Some things to note:

- If you would like your children to come to church with you, we encourage that. However, they are your responsibility throughout the service. They need to remain with you in their seats throughout the duration of the service. You cannot take them to another room in the church.
- Toilets. If your child needs the toilet during the service, please indicate to the steward and they will take you and your child to the toilets.
- Children's packs. We can't offer these at the moment. So do feel free to bring any quiet toys, books, colouring etc for your children to use during the service. But please take everything with you when you leave.

Live stream.

- We will stream the service live each week at 10am on YouTube.
- It will be uploaded to be viewed again or at another time from Sunday afternoon onwards.
- The link to the church YouTube channel is: <https://www.youtube.com/c/CowplainChurch>
- There are no front facing cameras, but If you would prefer to be sat in a camera free zone, please make this clear when booking so that Tori can try to accommodate this.

Keeping you safe.

So that you know what processes we have in place to keep the building as safe as possible here is what you can expect and what we have done.

- A number of hand sanitiser dispensers are located in various places around the church. Please use them as you enter the building and as necessary after that.
- Special door handles and push plate covers on all the main doors have been fitted that stop the virus remaining on the handles so as to stop any spread. We therefore recommend that you open a door using the push plate cover, and not by pushing on another part of the door.
- Every week the church will be thoroughly cleaned, especially the toilets.
- Each month the church will be sprayed with a special anti-viral protection/sanitisation spay on all the surfaces in the church by a professional cleaning company.
- As mentioned, there is a one way system and 2 metre social distancing in place. Please keep to the system.
- We have completed a thorough risk assessment. You can read it on the church website.

Keeping in touch.

- I will email you regularly with updates and any changes to the guidelines.
- We are in the process of recording a short video which walks you round the building and what to expect on a Sunday. It will be available next week and I will email you the link.
- Ask your questions. I realise there is a lot of information I have shared and you may have further questions. Please ask them, even if you think they are trivial. I want to help all of us through this period. You can contact me or any of the other elders.
- Concerns? Again, let us know. We are here to help you.

Other CEC ministries

At the moment our main focus is to get the Sunday service up and running. We are looking at how and when we can restart other ministries and we will update you about those when we are able to confirm they are going ahead.

You can see that we are doing everything we can to make things safe for your return to church. And whilst they are important, we don't want you to get the impression that these are the primary things on a Sunday. The primary purpose of all this is so that we can gather together for a Sunday service to worship our God and King, Jesus Christ. Hebrews 10:19-25 reminds us, *'Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds. ²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.'*

I look forward to seeing you back at church on a Sunday very soon.

Blessings



Pastor Phill, on behalf of the Managing Trustees