

ST. JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH GUIDANCE FOR WORSHIP

Here are just a few things to bear in mind when we attend Morning Worship at St John's, in line with current government guidance (at 8 August 2020)

- Please *enter by the church vestibule doors* and please leave a 'metre plus' between you and the next person using the doorway. Once inside the building please also observe that distance between yourself and the person in front. Please do not 'greet' one another in any physical way.
- However, please do not attend morning worship if you have any symptoms of Covid-19 or a raised temperature.
- Please bring a mask with you as they now have to be worn in places of worship. There will be some available if you forget.
- There will be a Test and Trace sheet to record who is present at the service. Please bring a pen with you to sign this. This record will be kept at St John's and destroyed after 21 days
- Please bring your own water supply with you.
- The only toilets available to use are those in the fish bowl, please observe the notices about social distancing and strict handwashing. The toilets for disabled people are in the same location.
- There will be a hand sanitiser in the vestibule area: please use it as you enter and exit. Please then make your way into the church, filling the front seats first.
- Pews in the Worship Area have been marked at 2m intervals and all are available to be occupied, once we are at full capacity we will not be able to admit more people. People in the same household can sit next to each other. Please wear your mask, unless you are exempt.
- Please be aware under current government restrictions there will be no singing at the service – but sharing in spoken responses is allowed. We may well use hymns to speak out aloud or to say the words to ourselves while the keyboard is being played. The organ can't be used during worship because of the draught caused by the organ pipes.
- Hymn books and Worship books will be available in the pews for you to use if you wish. Please return them to the pew rack for the following week. (Books are safe to use after 72 hours).
- We are grateful for those who now make their offering to the church via the bank. If you wish to bring an envelope or cash, please drop it in the plate provided as you enter or leave the Worship Area. This plate will be collected afterwards, it will not be 'presented' during the service; however, there will be a 'Dedication' prayer at some point in our worship.
- The service will end with a Blessing followed by a brief quiet time for personal prayer, or perhaps keyboard music.
- The government guidelines clearly state worshippers should not linger in the building after the service (so no coffee - until restrictions ease). We would encourage folk to leave church promptly. Conversations are, of course, permitted in the open air in small groups with social distancing.
- The Risk Assessment document for worship will be posted on the web site; there will also be a hard copy available in the lobby. This will of course be reviewed and updated as and when necessary.

Further notes:

Lifts in cars (from GOV/UK coronavirus information):

You should try not to share a vehicle with those outside your household or social bubble. If you need to, try to:

- share the transport with the same people each time
- keep to small groups of people at any one time
- open windows for ventilation
- travel side by side or behind other people, rather than facing them, where seating arrangements allow
- face away from each other
- consider seating arrangements to maximise distance between people in the vehicle
- clean your car between journeys using standard cleaning products - make sure you clean door handles and other areas that people may touch
- ask the driver and passengers to wear a face covering

However it cannot be guaranteed that lifts to church will be available immediately.

Masks in worship (based on Methodist Church guidelines):

Although members of the congregation have to wear masks at worship, leaders of worship need not wear masks all the time when there is someone present who depends on lip reading. Others can move their masks when speaking to anyone who is dependent on lip reading.

25 August 2020