

COVID GUIDELINES APPROVED BY CHURCH COUNCIL 20/02/22

CHURCH

1) The church to be split into zones:

Red: Safe-Spaced Seating - Masks Requested

Where: Middle section of the church, alternate pews from the back going forward for 6 pews. This takes the safest zone up to the wider gap on the right of the church and the organ on the left.

Seating cushions remain placed on alternate pews and red ribbons to be wrapped around the top corner of each pew to be used

Why: Safest space that caters for the most vulnerable or concerned

Yellow: Safe-Spaced Seating – Masks Optional

Where: Both side sections of the church, alternate pews from the back going forward to the wider gap on the right and the organ on the left

Seating cushions to be placed on alternate pews and yellow ribbons wrapped around the top corner of each pew to be used

Why: Gives an area that caters for those who wish to be in a safe-seated space but are not able or do not wish to wear a mask

Open Seating – Masks Optional

Where: Front pews in the middle and on the right of church. Seats and masks at the discretion of individuals

Why: As we ease out of restrictions in the country, this provides an area for those who are comfortable to do so, to sit nearer each other, with or without masks, without compromising the seating for those who are not comfortable with this

Overflow Seating

Where: The choir stalls on the left of the church

Why: Especially at first we may not have enough seating in a particular zone. The choir stalls can be brought into use for whichever zone needs more seating as required. Our wonderful door stewards will be able to designate this area as either a red, yellow or open zone depending on the need on the day

2) Singing

Acceptable and to be encouraged as we worship. Mask wearing depending on the zone where seated. e.g. masks required in the red zone

3) One-way system to remain – with exemptions

When the church is filling or emptying and many folks are moving in and out of the space, the one-way system is to be observed to stop people going in both directions and having to pass each other in the small aisles.

Exemptions are for individuals moving when the majority of church is seated – e.g. David can move to adjust a mic by the quickest route; those leading worship, opening church or reading the notices can move to the front and return to their seats by the quickest route

4) Service or Hymn Books

If required, they will be placed on the table in the porch and picked up by individuals as they enter church

5) The following arrangements to remain unchanged:

Collection

Sanitisers and attendee list

Holy Communion

JCLUB

1) Moving from the Church to the Hall

JCLUB to leave the church via the one way system, safe-spaced out both in the church, the porch and as they go downstairs. This will understandably take a little while as we try to eliminate bunching up that can occur on the way out. JCLUB will be reminded to keep especially quiet and only speak if necessary as they travel to the hall so that worship can continue in the church with as little disturbance as possible. The doors to the church and into the hall will be closed after JCLUB leave, to reduce any noise disturbance

2) HALL - Safe-Spaced Seating - Masks Optional

Chairs to be spaced out as required on the day, allowing bubbles to sit together. Those who feel vulnerable or concerned can remain masked and place their chairs towards the back of the hall, behind those on the front rows, who may not be masked. Activities in the hall to remain safe-spaced and, when appropriate, accommodate a separate area for those masked to use if they wish.

3) GROUPS – Discretion and Individual Consideration Required

So that due consideration is given to those who are vulnerable, or may feel concerned, each group is to arrange seating or mask-wearing depending on who attends. Group leaders to ask attendees, or parents of the little attendees, what they feel comfortable with.

ALL

1) Refreshments to Resume

Tea, coffee and biscuits to be served at the back of the hall after JCLUB and the service conclude. It was appreciated that safe-seating / spacing / mask-wearing is not practical or workable for this time of fellowship, meaning that this would be the time when we are at most risk of spreading infection. Understanding is given to those who do not feel comfortable joining in with this fellowship time

2) Prayer and Fellowship Circle

The church is encouraged to join JCLUB after the close of service at approximately 11:40 for a closing prayer and fellowship circle. Anyone in the circle from church or JCLUB is encouraged to share their prayer requests, thanks, praise, or what they have learned that day, at this special time of sharing. Those who do not wish to join the circle are politely asked to remain quiet during this time.

3) Covid Testing

If anyone tests positive, we request that they do not attend church until after the appropriate self-isolation government guidelines have been observed

If a close contact tests positive, we request that those who can, take a lateral flow test prior to attending church and remain masked throughout their visit