

Issued 12 September 2021

Sunday Services at Monyhull Church

From September Sunday services will operate as follows. A full note is included below but the most key items are as follows:

- Congregational singing is permitted
- There will be no pre booking of seats and no need to register your attendance in advance
- While it is no longer a legal requirement we request that people continue to wear face masks while in the building but they can be removed for refreshments
- You can now talk to people within the building. However, while it is no longer a legal requirement to maintain social distancing we encourage attenders to maintain social distancing

Most of us will be aware of the background to the Governments announcements in particular the following:

- The successful roll-out of Covid vaccinations to adults – although it should be noted that none of the vaccines offer 100% protection and there is clearly a number of people who still contract Covid after having the vaccination.
- Rising infections caused by the unlocking of the country especially among younger people.

Most of us are also aware that while the government has removed many of the legal restrictions the guidance to organisations is to take appropriate care to minimise the transmission of the virus.

This background creates a challenge for the church. The majority of the decisions around how we meet are no longer governed by law from the government. Therefore, the elders, having consulted with various people within the church, are issuing the guidance. We are aware that there will be those who will think we are moving too fast and those frustrated that we are retaining various Covid measures. In arriving at this guidance our aim is to make it possible for as many to attend church as possible, while taking care not to transmit the virus. We would ask everyone to show grace and respect to each other and not judge each other for the different views we might take on the Covid pandemic.

Issued 12 September 2021

- We want to enable as many people as possible to attend church. Each of us will have a different set of rules we will want to follow in every aspect of our meeting, for example, how close we are prepared to sit with others, how close we want to stand to others when talking, whether we are happy speaking indoors or only outdoors. Please be considerate and do find out what people are comfortable with and respect other people's views. If you feel someone is doing something you are not happy with e.g. standing too close while talking, please be honest and raise it with them in a polite and respectful manner.
- Take into consideration your personal risk. As already stated, the vaccines do not provide 100% protection. Do take adequate precautions and consider your own risk to serious illness from Covid.
- These guidelines will be reviewed each month.
- From September Communion will recommence on Sunday mornings on the first Sunday of the month and on Sunday evenings on the third Sunday of the month.
- Sunday morning services will take place at the church at 11am with a live stream into the church hall for those who cannot get a seat in the church. These services will be simultaneously live streamed on YouTube.
- There will be two growth groups which will cover age 3 to school year 6..
- There will be creche for under 3's in the Easter room.
- Sunday evening services will take place at the church at 6pm with a live stream on YouTube.
- Anyone with symptoms of Covid 19 **MUST NOT** attend.
- Anyone who has just returned from a country where the UK government has required a period of quarantine **MUST NOT** attend.
- Anyone self-isolating awaiting a Covid 19 test result **MUST NOT** attend.
- There is no longer a legal requirement to maintain social distancing. However, given the number of people attending services we will encourage a level of social distancing requirements while inside the building as set out below.
- There will be no formal limit on the number attending, however, the seats will be set out with an eye to a level of social distancing and we would ask that no-one moves any of the chairs. The seating will be as follows:
- You are able to talk to people while in the building, however, people should bear in mind the risk of transmission inside is much higher than outside.
- You are free to find your own seats. At the end of the service you are free to leave when you are ready – but please be sensible and stagger your exits to help social distancing.
- There is no longer a requirement to book a seat for the service.
- The NHS Track and Trace app QR codes will be displayed throughout the building for those who want to use them.
- Please wear a face mask while in the building – unless you are in smaller groups for tea and coffee.
- We encourage everyone to sanitise their hands using one of the two hand sanitiser stations.

Issued 12 September 2021

- All toilets in the church will be accessible and all have hand sanitiser dispensers.
- Depending on the weather, as many doors and windows as possible will be kept open to maximise ventilation. The ceiling fans will also be turned on to encourage the movement of air through the building.
- Some weeks communion will take place as part of the service. Details of how communion will operate are set out in a separate section below.
- You can talk to people in the church but please keep your mask on unless you are having tea or coffee. We encourage everyone to leave the church and socialise as much as possible outside.
- The box for the BCM foodbank is available for your donations on a Sunday.
- There is a box in the foyer for various items that are converted to cash and gifted to Just Caring – items include foreign currency and old mobile phones. For more information on what can be deposited please ask Peter Mountford. All items will be left in the box for at least 72 hours.
- Tea and coffee will be served following the service from the hatch in the annexe. You are now free to walk to the hall to get tea and coffee. There will be tables in the hall in groups of 6 for those who want to sit inside and talk.
- Drinks will be served in normal crockery which will have gone through the dishwasher that morning. Servers will use hand sanitiser and wear gloves.,
- Cold drinks for children will be on a trolley by the hatch.

Communion

- Bread will be prepared in advance by people wearing gloves and face masks and will be served in individual disposable containers.
- Wine will be served in individual cups. The stewards will distribute the bread and wine and will wear face masks and disposable gloves.
- When the steward approaches please reach out your hand and the steward will place the disposable container or cup into your hand. Once used please take the disposable containers with you and deposit in the bins by the exit and the reusable communion cups can be left at your seat.
- The government is encouraging testing at home using lateral flow tests to try and identify asymptomatic cases quickly. We encourage as many as possible to obtain tests which can be ordered on line or collected from various locations in the city. If people test in the 24 hours before the service it will help reduce the risk of us inadvertently bringing the infection to church.