

Cannon Lane Methodist Church

Advice for Worshippers

V1.1 – approved by Church Council and issued 18th August 2020

V1.2 – updated to include new Government rules announced on 10th September

Cannon Lane intends to open for worship again on Sunday 23rd August. We have prepared the church premises and put in place processes to minimise the risk of infection from COVID-19 for those attending worship. Specifically, a risk assessment has been carried out and approved by Church Council. The resulting Action Plan has been implemented, including the production of this advice, to ensure your safety. If you would like further details of what we have done or you have any concerns before returning to worship, please contact Chris Hull in the first instance on chris.c.hull@gmail.com or 020 8863 1604 or one of the Property Committee.

Here is the guidance we have developed that we need all worshippers to read and follow for everyone's safety:

1. If you are unwell

If you have even mild symptoms of COVID-19 – recent onset of a new continuous cough, a high temperature, loss or change in your normal sense of taste or smell – or a positive test result for COVID-19, you must not come to church and should self-isolate for 10 days in line with UK Government guidelines (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>)

2. Social distancing – what this means

We will implement 2m social distancing. This means that you should remain 2m away from other worshippers you are not in the same household as or who you are not in a support bubble with. This also means that numbers could be restricted and we may need to use the coffee shop and vestibule if there are more than 15-20 worshippers. Following changes announced by the Government on 10th September, you should not gather in groups of more than 6 either before or after the service.

3. Face masks

Please bring and wear a face mask. It is a legal requirement for worshippers to wear a face mask (<https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/18300/guide-for-face-coverings-7820.pdf>). There are exemptions for the preacher and those assisting with readings and prayers. If you believe you are exempt from wearing a face mask, (the Government has produced a list of those who are not required to wear a face mask), please contact one of the stewards or Chris (contact details above)

4. Test and Trace – your contact details

You will be asked to confirm your name and contact details at the entrance to support NHS Test and Trace. *Providing your data is not a condition for attending worship; it is optional but strongly encouraged.*

5. Practical matters

- a. There are two wall mounted alcohol hand sanitisers in the vestibule. You are encouraged to sanitise your hands when entering the church.

- b. No singing is permitted but there will be music that you can hum along to should you wish
- c. Please bring your own Bible or Worship/Hymn Books if you prefer to use your own items. If you do not wish to bring your own books, a Bible and Hymn book will be provided with your seat. They will not have been used for a week eliminating the risk of infection. (The recommended quarantine period for books is 48 hours).
- d. Toilets are available and should be used on a 'one out, one in' basis. There is a wall mounted hand sanitiser at the start of the corridor to the toilets just to the left of the doors to the Small Hall. Please use this first so that there is no risk of infection being transferred to handles and surfaces within the toilets
- e. If you feel unwell during a service, please let the steward on duty know. You will be advised to go home immediately. If for any reason this is not possible, we have a dedicated isolation room and you will be looked after.
- f. If you usually make a weekly offering using cash or the envelope scheme then we would discourage you from doing this and to use online giving if possible. If this is not possible, you can still make your cash/donation by placing your offering in the collection plate by the door of the Sanctuary.

6. After the service

After the service you will be guided by the stewards to leave via the coffee shop. Please continue to observe social distancing and move away promptly. Please also make sure we all follow the "rule of six" announced by the UK Government on 10th September. We understand this may truncate meeting fellow Cannon Laners in the car park afterwards but we must follow the new rules for everyone's safety

We appreciate that the guidance above does not appear very welcoming to those wishing to attend worship but we have a duty to all those attending to try to minimise the risk of anyone becoming infected by COVID-19. We hope that once we try this out, we will start to get used to the 'new normal.' However, if you remain uncomfortable or are in a vulnerable group then we will continue to support you in other ways.

If you have any concerns at any time or would simply like more information to help you decide, please contact one of the stewards or Chris H (contact details at the top of this document).