

A Church Service under the New Normal

I sent this out to the church members some time ago. Here is another update for everyone who is viewing this website and who may decide they may like to join in our worship. This contains the latest developments from mine and my colleagues close examination of the Risk Assessment and its recent approval by the Mersey Synod. This is now on our website, has been sent to the Synod and also sent to our Insurers and **very importantly, approved** before we can open our doors.

People arrive, self-distancing as they walk up the path. (on 23 August it is 1 metre).

Double doors are open, they sanitise their hands before entering the Sanctuary.

Persons attending the service should wear a mask.

We do not hug, kiss or shake hands.

No Bibles or Hymnals are available.

Children's books and toys will not be available.

Double doors to the Sanctuary open.

Following the arrows (footprints) on the floor we find a seat. Every second row will be out of use and at least every second seat will be too.

Because of these restrictions the maximum number of people allowed in the sanctuary is 20.

There can be no close chatting between the members of the congregation and the minister.

The minister will conduct the service from the pulpit, to self-distance.

There will be no singing, as the church must comply with current government guidelines on performances and, at the time of writing no singing is allowed.

Any responses will be quiet.

There will be no communion served when the church is first opened. Communion is scheduled to return in October at the earliest.

The service will be very brief.

Furniture which has been occupied must be cleaned after use, plus, all touch points, i.e. door handles and light switches.

The congregation will leave through the vestry, self-distancing.

There will be no offertory collection. A plate will be left at the back of the church for this purpose and the persons counting the money must wear gloves.

No coffee will be served. The main kitchen and small kitchen will not be open.

People may chat in the church garden, at a safe distance of course.

The toilets off the vestibule must be cleaned after use.

I know it's not a good scenario, but to protect our fellow church members and visitors it is the best we can do and surely it is a way of demonstrate our commitment and love for each other that is shown in a practical way.

Imelda Aspinall Church Secretary

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