



# Shildon Methodist Church



August 2020

Dear Friends

Good News! We are planning to reopen our Church for Worship from September. At the moment we do not have details of when services will be held. A new Plan is being drawn up and it is likely there will be a gradual reopening of churches for Worship, for example not all churches may have a service every week. We will try and provide more details when they are available.

In terms of Worship at our Church, it will be radically different from what it was before the lockdown. We have to comply with Government and Methodist Church guidance to ensure our Church premises remain COVID secure and safe for everyone who uses them.

- We have to maintain social distancing in Church. Chairs have been spaced to allow a social distance of 2 metres, which means we are limited to only having a maximum congregation of around 26 people. Only where there are family groups and “bubbles” can people sit closer together. The photographs overleaf provide an indication of how the Church is set out.
- Due to social distancing there will be limited opportunities for fellowship with others, for example you will not be able to stop and have a chat when you’re entering and leaving the Church and there will be no tea and coffee after Worship.
- We are required to record names and contact details for those attending Worship to support the NHS Track and Trace system. These details will be collected by the Door Steward when you arrive. The information will be kept safely for 21 days and then destroyed.
- We will have a one-way system for entering and leaving Worship. Entry will be via the front doors only (unless you are a wheel chair user) and exit will be through the rear doors. There will be stewards to help you follow the system and we would ask you to follow their advice.
- You will be required to wear face coverings in Church unless you fall into one of the exempt categories.
- Singing is not allowed during Worship and services are likely to be shorter than usual.
- There will be hand sanitiser available when you enter and leave the Church and you are encouraged to make use of this.
- The Church kitchen will be closed and you are encouraged to bring bottled water with you if you like to have a drink during Worship.
- We are asking you to help keep the Church toilet safe and clean by using the provided anti-bacterial wipes to wipe the seat, toilet handle and any other area you touch when using the toilet facilities.

Despite these restrictions we hope you will feel able to join us for Worship when we reopen but we do understand some of you will have reservations and not feel able to return at this time. Please stay safe and secure.

Your sincerely

Senior Steward.

