

In line with Government guidance we have introduced measures to ensure that all those coming into the building can do so safely. Our aim is to minimise the potential for spreading of COVID-19 among worshippers, and those working/volunteering within the building.

It is important to read this information if you are coming to the Prayer room, please do ask Caroline questions if there is anything you are unsure about.

Please Note: Churches are allowed to open for private prayer during the Lockdown period Thursday 4th November – Wednesday 2nd December 2020, but this is very different than gathering to pray together.

Private prayer is defined as ***"Individual prayer within a place of worship is a person or household entering the venue to pray on their own and not as part of a group, led prayer or communal act"***

Additionally we should be socially distanced from other individuals or households. Collective or communal prayer and regular scheduled services are not permitted during at this time. This includes led devotions or prayer of any sort.

We would really like to provide a place for people to come and pray so we are provisionally planning to **open the Prayer room on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning from 10 - 12**. We would ask that if you do come and pray during these times you follow these regulations and **wear a mask**.

1. Do not come if you are showing symptoms of COVID-19

- a new continuous cough,
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell

If you have any of these symptoms you should self-isolate at home immediately with other members of your household.

2. Reduced capacity

We are allowing a maximum of 18 people in the room at a time to facilitate social distancing; we have undertaken a risk assessment taking into account the total floor space and set out chairs to help ensure that everyone attending is able to socially distance. Please do not move the furniture around. **Note:** If more than 18 people arrive we will move into the hall

3. Arrival

We ask that when you come to the Father's House and into the Prayer room itself you are aware of other people and allow them space. We are asking that everyone sanitises their hands on entry.

4. Keeping a record of those attending

We will be keeping an accurate temporary record of those attending for 21 days, so that we can assist NHS Test and Trace with requests for that data if needed for contact tracing and the investigation of local outbreaks.

5. Social distancing

Please adhere to social distancing of 2 metres or 1 metre with risk mitigation (where 2 metres is not viable) between people. **Note:** use of mitigations means things like wearing a face-covering or turning your face away.

6. Singing

We are asking you not to sing when we gather together as the government guidance advises that singing, shouting and/or playing of instruments that are blown into should be specifically avoided in worship. This is because there is a possible additional risk of infection in environments where individuals are singing as a group, and this applies even if social distancing is being observed or face coverings are used. We will be using recorded worship in the Prayer room.

7. Toilets

Please be especially aware of social distancing waiting to use the toilets. We ask that in line with government advice you sanitise your hands before entering the toilet.

8. Cleaning

We have a cleaning schedule and all surfaces, especially those most frequently touched such as door handles, are regularly cleaned.

9. Masks

From 8 August 2020, face coverings are *required by law* to be worn in public indoor settings including places of worship (there are valid exemptions for some individuals and groups to not wear a face covering).

10. Advice for those who are clinically vulnerable

Certain groups of people may be at increased risk of severe disease from COVID-19, including people who are aged 70 or older, regardless of medical conditions. Those who fall within this group are advised to stay at home as much as possible and, if they do go out, to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside of their household.

Please note: Advice for the clinically vulnerable is advisory and they can choose how to manage their own risks.

11. Finally please respect these guidelines

We probably have different opinions about how important these steps are – but we ask that you consider others and do your best to follow this guidance. Please don't be offended if the person leading the meeting reminds you of any of them while you are in the building.