

Father's House: guidance for use of the building, updated on 5th November 2020

These guidelines have been updated in response to the latest Government guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>

Our aim is to minimise the potential for spreading of COVID-19 for those using the building.

During the period 4th November – 2nd December the only activities taking place in the Father's House building will be;

1. **Little Acorns Pre-school:** every weekday
2. **Open House drop in service:** Tuesday 10am – 12noon operating a reduced service
3. **Private prayer:** in the Prayer room, Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 10 – 12am
4. **Staff working:** where possible staff will work from home

It is important to read this information before coming into the building and please do ask questions if there is anything you are unsure about.

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 have limited the number of people attending for private prayer to 18 people to allow for facilitating social distancing; we have undertaken a risk assessment taking into account the total floor space as well as likely pinch points and busy areas such as entrances, exits.

3. Arrival

We ask that when you come to the entrance you are aware of other people and come into the building 1 person/household at a time. Everyone should wash or sanitise their hands on entry. Please allow time for each person to use the hand sanitiser as they come in.

4. Keeping a record of those attending

We will be keeping an accurate temporary record of those attending any meetings 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. Hygiene

On entering and leaving a place of worship, everyone, including staff, should wash their hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using soap and water or use hand sanitiser if hand washing facilities are not available.

6. Social distancing

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

7. Singing

We are asking you not to sing when we gather together in the building 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.

8. 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.

9. Refreshments

We will not be serving tea and coffee at this time.

10. Cleaning

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

11. 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)

12. Protecting people more at risk from coronavirus

If you are over 60 or clinically vulnerable, you could be at higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. You should be especially careful to follow the rules and minimise your contacts with others and you should continue to wash your hands carefully and more frequently than usual and maintain thorough cleaning of frequently touched areas in your home and/or workspace

13. 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 you are reminded of any of them while you are in the building.