

Kelvedon United Reformed Church

COVID update – July 2021

Following the Government's recent relaxation of restrictions on communal worship, we wanted to update you on the plan for our Sunday services. Our primary concern is to ensure that our church building remains a safe place for us to join together in worship, and that all members of our congregation are made to feel safe and comfortable. The Elders have agreed a set of recommendations for running our services, a summary of which is given below.

- Seating in the sanctuary has been rearranged to take account of the relaxation in social distancing requirements which has allowed us to increase our capacity. However, we would request that couples sit in the side banks of 3 chairs, and those attending on their own sit at the end of one of the centre blocks of 5 chairs.
- Additional seating is available in the balcony should we reach capacity downstairs, or if you would feel more comfortable sitting with a bit more space.
- Entrance to the sanctuary will continue to be via the front door, with the rear doors remaining locked until after the service in preparation for exit.
- We will continue to maintain our existing one-way system where we can.
- We will continue to register your attendance, just in case we are contacted by NHS Test and Trace. If you use the NHS app, please continue to scan the QR code on entry in line with the latest government recommendations.
- We will continue to supply hand sanitiser and ask you to use before entry to the sanctuary.
- We request that you continue to wear masks on entry to the building and whilst moving around the church. However, they can be removed when seated if you so wish.
- Hymn books and Bibles will be made available at each seat. We request that these are left at the seats and not collected up at the end of the service.
- We are now permitted to sing, although the singing group will remain within the congregation for now, rather than standing at the front.
- Please continue to minimise social contact and observe social distancing – some people will continue to feel vulnerable.
- When serving bread and wine, please wear a mask.
- We will resume serving refreshments after our Sunday services (commencing on Sunday 1st August). Please take a seat and you will be served at your table. Those serving should wear masks, including when in the kitchen. If you prefer to stand and chat with your drink, please move outside and continue your conversations.
- **As before, please follow government guidance if you are contacted by NHS Test and Trace, if you have received a positive test result, or if you have symptoms of COVID. If you are showing any symptoms, please do not attend church.**