

CENTRAL URC – REOPENING FOR WORSHIP – SUNDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER

We are reopening the Church for worship on Sunday, 13th September, with apologies that we were not able to meet the original target date a week earlier. The Elders and I look forward to welcoming all those who feel comfortable about returning. And that last phrase is important. Please do not feel you should or ought to attend unless you really do feel comfortable about doing so. The Service will start at its usual time of 10:30.

The government has laid down rules for Church Services with which we need to comply; from a safety as well as a legal standpoint. Most of these you will already be familiar with, for example social distancing, face covering and, possibly, registration. One that applies only to worship in churches is no singing by the congregation. So here is what to expect:

- If there is a queue to enter when you arrive, please observe social distancing while waiting.
- The rule for face coverings is that you will need to wear one all the time you are in the building unless you are exempt for the same reasons that apply to shops and buses.
- You will be met at the door by a steward who will check you are wearing a face covering unless you are exempt from so doing. (*If you forget your face covering, face masks will be available.*) This steward will also ensure that the vestibule is sufficiently clear to allow social distancing before you are allowed to enter. Social distancing must be observed all the time you are in the building.
- Inside, a second steward will register your attendance and ask you to sanitise your hands using the sanitiser provided. Registration will simply be noting your name and telephone number against a check-list.
- The lift will be available for those who need it to get upstairs, operated by a third steward. Please move to the back of the lift if using it to maintain social distancing between you and the operator.
- When you reach the Sanctuary you will find the seats set out in groups of 1, 2 or 3 to ensure social distancing is maintained. If you are on your own please occupy a single seat. If in a family group, 2 or 3 seats as appropriate. There will be another steward in the upper vestibule to advise if needed.
- Once in the Sanctuary, please move directly to your seat and remain there until the end of the Service if possible. Talking to each other is permitted but only if masks are worn and social distancing maintained.
- The toilets will be available but please avoid using unless you really have to. If you do need to use them, observe the rules displayed and use the hand sanitiser provided before and after using.
- The Service will differ mainly from what we are used to in that singing by the congregation is not allowed under government rules. However, the playing of music is allowed, both live and recorded. The length of Services may well vary depending on what the preacher of the day decides to include. It is expected that they will be no less than 30 minutes and no longer than 60 minutes in length.
- For Communion, the bread will be served using tongs to ensure each member of the congregation only touches their own piece. Wine will probably be served in the normal manner though this may change if we find problems with doing it that way. However it is served, please touch only your own glass.
- Orders of Service will not be available in the church. The intention is that they will be sent out beforehand so you can print off a copy and bring it with you should you so wish. If you do, please take it home with you.

- Projections onto the wall may not always be possible, for example if the system is being used to transmit the Service to those not attending. Also if Services are being transmitted to or from the other Pastorate Churches
- At the end of the Service please remain in your seat until a steward indicates you can leave. This is to ensure social distancing can be maintained until you leave the building.
- A plate for leaving collections will be placed at the rear of the church as usual.
- Please leave the church in an orderly fashion and once outside do not congregate near the door so that social distancing can be maintained by others as they exit.

This is a lot of information to digest but it is necessary, not just to comply with government rules but also to keep each other safe and well. Help those who are voluntarily acting as stewards by listening to what they say and obeying any instructions they give. It will be strange until we get used to these changes. Please be patient and understanding.

If you have any questions about the above please address them to Tony Clark by Email (*tony.clark7ah@btinternet.com*), post (*34 Poynter Road, Hove BN3 7AH*), or phone (*07747 166137*).

Any comments you may wish to make after attending a Service will be welcome. These also should also be addressed to Tony.

Please pray that the reopening will go well and will be a blessing to us all.

Rev Sue Chapman