

BROMSGROVE Baptist Church

Offering the transforming love
of Jesus Christ in the realities of life



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21st July 2021

Hello everyone,

Revised arrangements for Sunday worship

Following the most recent Government announcements about the easing of lockdown, as well as having reflected on the updated Baptist Union recommendations, we have carefully considered as a Leadership Team what our right response should be at this time. Views and opinions expressed at our recent Church Meeting have also been taken into account.

Two paragraphs in the latest Baptist Union document entitled: "Guidance on Church Worship" particularly caught my attention:

"...as infections continue to rise, the Government recommends continuing caution. Good ventilation, diligence in hygiene, wearing a face covering in enclosed and crowded spaces, and limiting contact with those we do not live with, are all noted as beneficial behaviours.

"In the light of this, we recommend that it is both sensible and appropriate for churches to continue to take some measures to limit the spread of Covid-19. Churches have a responsibility to protect their staff, congregations, communities, and other users of their buildings. However, it is now down to each church to determine for itself what these measures should be."

Our task now is to consider what a balanced and responsible approach will look like for Sunday Worship over the coming weeks. One thing it certainly doesn't look like for me is that we remove all Covid safety measures in one go.

Taking account of all the recommendations available to us, as well as being mindful of the rapid growth in new Covid cases in our area, we intend to continue with the following measures, for the time being, for gatherings in our church building, especially for Sunday Worship:

- Touch point cleaning will continue before and after services.
- Hand sanitising will be requested on entry to the building.
- Unless medically exempt, all people are to continue wearing face masks whilst in the building. Worship leaders and preachers will be permitted to remove their face mask whilst at the front, but will put them back on prior to leaving the stage.
- Only those wearing face masks are permitted to sing.

- Worship Group will remain socially distanced on stage.
- Please refrain from hugging and mingling with other households / bubbles whilst in the church building.
- Please sit in family groups / bubbles only, leaving a minimum of 1m distance (2 chairs) between your family group / bubble and any others.
- There will be no need to book in to attend services, but we will continue to record the names of those who have attended for track & trace purposes.
- We will remove the one way system we have been using, and lift restrictions for use of the toilets.
- Shared items will not be used, e.g.: offering bags; Communion will continue to be served as we have been during fuller restrictions.
- No refreshments will be served on a Sunday morning until September at the earliest.

All of the above will be in place until at least the end of August, but will be continually reviewed. Any changes that we feel able to make sooner will be communicated at the earliest opportunity.

From Sunday 25th July 2021 and for the whole of August, weekly in-person services will resume. There will be no J-Team groups operating until September, but activity packs have been prepared for younger children to use during services.

Thank you for your ongoing support. I am sure that you will appreciate how hard it has been over the 18 months to ensure we are doing the best we can with Covid safety as a church, and that challenge will continue for a while longer.

We are always happy to listen to your views and reflect on feedback we get as a Leadership Team, but please be gentle with us, remembering that we don't have all the answers, or always feel that we know clearly what is the most appropriate approach to take at times.

I will be on annual leave from 26th July until 9th August and will not be contactable during that time. Please contact one of the Deacons during that time if the need arises.

God bless.



Paul Lewis.

On behalf of the Leadership Team.