

COVID-19 RISK ASSESSMENT UPDATED 24th June 2021

Those experiencing **coronavirus symptoms** listed below should not attend:

- new continuous cough
- high temperature
- loss of or change to your normal sense of smell or taste (anosmia)

The building has been aired, and water mains flushed before use. Site has been checked for electrical and tripping hazards.

Limited numbers (max 24 at a time) to maintain social distancing. Signage and verbal instructions, with floor markings, to maintain 2m social distancing and wash hands.

No physical contact e.g. handshakes, hugs, or kisses between members of different household bubbles. The wearing of masks is compulsory for all attenders unless they are exempt.

Windows are kept open during and between services to provide better ventilation and decrease the build-up of aerosol particles.

A register will be kept of attendees with telephone contact details. Anyone attending a service who is later contacted by NHS track and trace should inform the minister so that all other attendees can be informed to self-isolate.

We have only one entrance/exit, and so staggered entry times and or socially distanced queuing will be used to maintain social distance.

A one-way system, using tape and barriers, has been put in place.

Handwashing facilities and alcohol gel have been provided throughout the building, with air dryers and paper towels to avoid cross contamination.

Premises (esp. toilets) are cleaned before and after (and if necessary, during) services. All cleaners are provided with disposable gloves and suitable cleaning materials. In the event of exposure to someone with Coronavirus symptoms we will close the church building for a minimum of 72 hours with no access permitted before re-cleaning.

Singing will be provided by the worship team (2 persons) only, on stage (2 metres apart) using masks and the Perspex screen provided. Congregation is permitted to join in singing, subject to the following risk limiting factors which will be made clear verbally every service:

- Do not sing for long.
- Do not sing loudly – keep volume down.
- All the usual social distancing, ventilation and hand hygiene measures must be adhered to.
- Most importantly, those singing must wear a mask.

Bibles and hymn books will not be made available for services. Instead, all readings will be projected onto the screen. If you bring your own Bible (which is not recommended) please do not share it with others. Bookcases have been turned to prevent access to literature.

Seating has been arranged for each household unit/bubble at a socially distanced 2m from all other seating.

For communion, bread and wine will be placed in individual disposable containers next to each household cluster of chairs. These are to be binned immediately after communion in the extra bins

provided, which are lined with removable polythene bags (changed regularly). Those who feel safer not taking communion are advised that this is completely acceptable. Rigorous hand washing routine and hand sanitizer is used by those preparing bread and wine.

Those who have received “shielding letters” from the Chief Medical Officer are advised that shielding has now ended. However, they may not wish to come out yet, and so all services are streamed live online.

Those who can, should attend services online whenever possible. Failure to comply with social distancing measures and the Covid-19 risk assessment may lead to closure of premises.

It has been agreed that even though churches are permitted to open by the government, the church will voluntarily and immediately close if rolling rates of transmission exceed 1000/100,000 in Torfaen (i.e. 1% locally).

Weddings – update. Only persons invited may enter the venue, and a list is to be provided by the families for the door steward to use when directing guests to their seats. The couple do not need to wear a face covering during; the walk down the aisle, the vows, the first kiss, and photos taken indoors. Although not obligatory, the minister will wear a face covering throughout.