

CLARENCE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

July 2021

WORSHIP God **GROW** Together **SERVE** Others



Our Plans For Gathering Beyond “July 19th”

As we seek to move forward with love and care for one another, our main headlines are as follows



You will no Longer need to reserve a seat.



Hand Gel is available at all entrances and exits. You are requested to use this as you enter the building.



We are requesting that **ALL** attending continue to wear face coverings out of respect and love for all those attending and leading the services.



The congregation are invited to join in with the singing. However, we will request that this is done at a low level and **ONLY** by those wearing a face mask.

**FOR THE FULL DETAILS
OF ALL CONTROLS TO BE IMPLEMENTED AND CONTINUED
PLEASE READ ON....**

On 12 July, the UK Government confirmed the move to step 4 of their Covid-19 recovery roadmap for England from 19 July. This has brought about the removal of legal restrictions, placing the responsibility onto businesses and venues to make their own decisions about what restrictions remain in place in our own buildings.

However, as infections continue to rise, the Government recommends continuing caution and suggests that beneficial behaviours to keep everyone safe include, good ventilation, diligence in hygiene, the wearing of face coverings in enclosed and crowded spaces and limiting contact with those we do not live with.

In the light of this, it is both sensible and appropriate for churches to continue to take some measures to limit the spread of Covid-19 especially as the infection rate from Covid-19 is once again on the increase.

Churches like businesses have a responsibility to protect their staff, congregations, communities, and other users of their buildings.

As a church leadership we have been reviewing what measures we as Trustees feel need to be in place at CPBC and are in 100% unity with one another. This has not been an easy process as we are aware that many in our church hold different views about wearing face coverings and singing. Just as many have different approaches to their own level of concern about the fear of spreading infection or being asked to isolate as a result of reduced social distancing and the impact that being asked to isolate would have on people's own personal and family plans.

This week the Baptist Union of Great Britain have also issued guidance to the churches in our Baptist Family on the questions that as Trustees we need to be considering and offering recommendations of best practice that we might want to consider. They have also referred us to the exhortation in Ephesians 4 to *'be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing in mind one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace'*.

As a result, many Baptist churches (just as we have at CPBC) have made their own decisions as Trustees for their own locations and congregations. Consequently, the decisions we have made could differ in parts to the churches around us in our town. This is due to each church having different congregation age make up, activities, space available and ventilation possible.

At CPBC we have been mindful in our decision to be aware of:

- How do we move forward as a gathered community of God's people in an attitude of love, care, concern and seeking what is right for the most vulnerable?
- How does our decision help everyone feel included?
- How do we help the nervous who want to return to in person worship without causing further panic?
- How do we best consider those with long term health conditions or low immunity (even though vaccinated) due to those long-term health conditions? For some health conditions (like cancer treatment patients) their immunity even with a double jab has been reported on the BBC news is as low as 60%.
- How do we take into consideration the needs of those involved in the service? (The minister, the musicians, singers, AV, PA teams, greeters etc...and their concerns, not just for themselves, but also their continued concern for close members of their families or bubble who are vulnerable or not yet vaccinated).

**KEY to our gathering after July 19th
is how are we able to make people feel welcome?
Equally key is the personal response of our church
to move forward considering the needs of others.**

SUNDAY SERVICES

Allowing People to Keep Their Distance

In order to fit in more people, we will reduce the spacing between chairs in each row. Into our current layout we will add another row of chairs downstairs so that the gap is reduced to around 1.5m between rows. (Further rows can be added as demand rises)

However, to recognise that some people would struggle with people being near them, people are welcome to collect a set of crosses from the foyer when they come into church. These can be placed on the chairs next to them indicating to others that, for their own peace of mind, they require space and so for the seat to be left vacant.

The balcony can be used to provide extra seating if required.

Face Coverings

Out of respect and love for others our decision as trustees is that **ALL those attending will be required to wear face mask at all times** (unless taking part in leading the service). Those who are exempt from wearing face masks will be required to wear a full visor whilst attending church services.

Singing

It has been established that singing increases the risk of aerosol transmission, and so **we are restricting singing to low volume levels and only for those who are wearing face masks. Those wearing visors are expected to refrain from singing as these do not limit the aerosol transmission risk to others in the congregation.** Whilst singing we'll also encourage the congregation to remain seated.

Further controls to be implemented or continued.

- **Seat Booking:** will no longer be required.
- **Hand Gel:** will be available and all people will be asked to gel as they enter the building.
- **Track and Trace:** we will continue to keep details of those who attend for 21 days, using the QR codes or requesting paper records.

- **One way Movement:** will no longer be required and so floor markings will be removed. However, for the time being – **exiting will continue to be via the side door** to encourage the movement of people after the service.
- **Ventilation:** windows will need to be open, and sanctuary heating will need to remain off.
- **Length of service:** this will continue to be no longer than needed.
- **Communion:** will continue to be prepared and served as per the risk assessment, although the number of servers might be increased.
- **Tea / coffee:** refreshments will not be served until Sept at the earliest, but this will be dependent on people being willing to serve on rotas.
- **Cleaning:** hoovering will only be done when the room is empty and PPE will be expected to be worn. We will need to start a new rota for the sanctuary cleaning.
- **Toilets:** we will continue with reduced toilets available these will need to be cleaned following Covid regulations at the end of the service.

GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

As groups feel ready to reboot, we are still requiring that each group leader speak to the leadership first before meeting. This information has not changed from that issued before. There are still legal requirements in place when groups are meeting such as track and trace that continue to need to be followed.

PLEASE NOTE:

The above relates to all groups and activities that meet both on and off premises who wish to meet under the supervision and insurance of CPBC.

On the next page is reprinted what we have previously asked **ALL** groups to do, so that Trustees are aware of who, when and how we are regathering.

Over a number of months, we have talked about groups and ministries not just restarting to what they were before the pandemic, but rebooting or upgrading when they are ready to recommence.

In some cases, some groups might not reboot at all, but instead begin from scratch with a new purpose and ethos to serve those to whom they seek to minister.

It is not our plan to request groups reboot by a certain date, but instead we want this to be an organic process.

Therefore, groups need to consider if they are ready and when they are ready, alongside considering their purpose and vision for rebooting and how the group fits into the life and vision of CPBC.

To facilitate this when they feel they are ready, **ALL** groups should approach the leadership who can then work with them to see how they fit into the church vision. Consideration also needs to be given to:

- 1. How does the group fit into the concept of WORSHIP God, GROW together and SERVE Others? How will they guide people to other stages?**
- 2. What are the current regulations required relating to the group?**
(e.g. what, at the time of discussion, is permissible under government guidelines?)
- 3. What restrictions would need to be in place to conform to any national guidelines?**
- 4. Has a satisfactory risk assessment been completed?**
- 5. Is a leader willing to take on responsibility for ensuring that government guidelines are adhered to?**
- 6. How does that group fit into the use of the church building and being covid secure?**
- 7. Have they got the support of their members to restart and do they have enough leaders? Are there enough church members to support the running of the group?**



GATHERED No Longer SCATTERED

September will mark the end of the summer holiday season and in church life is usually a time to focus on a new season as groups and ministries start their new sessions.

Having allowed us time to regather in September we will take some time as a church to come together to remember those who are unable to come and worship with us.

For some this will be because of health or age, but there are also those who have been called to glory during the pandemic. It will be important for us as a church to acknowledge the loss in our church family of those whom we love.

Alongside this, we will also come with thanksgiving that God has brought us through this unprecedented time as we now begin to refocus our minds on building and seeing the Kingdom of God come here on earth, just as it is in heaven.

***ALL PLANS REMAIN SUBJECT TO FUTURE GUIDANCE
AND RESTRICTIONS THAT MAY BE ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT***

WE NEED YOU TO GET INVOLVED

We need people to put their hands up to serve on Sundays and beyond. So, can you get involved? If so, please speak to us. Please don't leave it to others as we are struggling to fill many of the roles:

Team Roles Include:

Welcome team
Tea and Coffee
Admin
Sunday Club
Visiting

Offering Counting
Cleaning
AV and PA
Youth
Tots and Toddlers

PRAYER

As we move into this next period, please be prayerful.

- Please pray that we will not enter a third wave and move back into restrictions
- Please pray for those who mentally are struggling with the movements out of lockdown
- Please pray for those who have lost loved ones during the pandemic
- Please pray for unity in the church
- Please pray for the church leadership
- Please pray for people to step up to take on roles in the church
- Please celebrate with thanks those who, having served in many roles, have now because of the pandemic put those roles down for a variety of different reasons.
- Please pray for those who are currently having to isolate having been contacted by Track and Trace
- Please Pray for the Holy Spirit to anoint our ministry, our mission, and our service for the Kingdom of God.

REBOOTING the church

What future will we build after lockdown?



If you have not yet watched any of our current sermon series, why not take a moment to watch on YouTube.

You will find us under **clarencparkTV**