

Bethany Christian Church

COVID-19 Guidelines for our Sunday services.

We have amended our church meeting guidelines to take account of the latest government guidelines that were issued on 16th July 2021. (Available to read in full here: www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship) We have carried out a risk assessment and have put in place measures adhering to the guidelines set out by the UK Government for Places of Worship in England.

When not to attend:

If you have any of the symptoms of COVID-19 or have been instructed to self-isolate please do not attend the Sunday service. The symptoms are one or more of:

- A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If anyone begins to develop any of these symptoms whilst attending the service, please could you leave immediately along with anyone you came with.

Sunday Mornings:

1. Arrival

The doors will be open 10 minutes before the service starts. Please sanitise your hands on arrival (Hand sanitiser will be available on the table in the foyer). Please follow any additional instructions given to you by the Steward. There will be people at the service who feel differently to you about the risks and precautions they are happy to take - please be intentionally aware and considerate of each other. **We will not be operating any form of COVID Pass**, and will no longer be keeping a record of attendance for Test & Trace.

2. Face coverings

As we are able to have plenty of ventilation and the building will not be crowded, **face coverings are now optional**. However we would like to encourage the following...

(a) If you would like to be more cautious then **we would encourage you to consider using a better quality face mask** that may provide you, the wearer, increased protection eg something like a P3 disposable face mask (eg from Screwfix or Amazon)

(b) If you will not be wearing a face covering at church **we would encourage you to take a lateral flow test** either on the Saturday evening or Sunday morning before church.

These are free and available via Boots in Ulverston, or can be ordered for free online or by calling 119. We will not be checking up on these, we are simply encouraging people to do this to help others feel safer.

3. Seating

There will be two types of seating available depending on if you feel you need to be more cautious or less cautious.

(a) **Cautious Seating:** The right-hand side of the room, next to the open windows, will be kept for those who have decided they need to remain more cautious. The seats in this area will be more socially distanced with greater ventilation. These seats are primarily for those who feel more vulnerable or who need to be more cautious. For the sake of others please wear a face covering if sitting in this area.

(b) **Normal Seating:** The rest of the seating will still be socially distanced but less so than at present in order to make sure there are always enough seats for everyone to meet together on a Sunday. It will be optional to wear a face covering in this area.

4. Singing

We consider that the act of singing our praise and worship to God should be part of normal church life when it is at all possible. For this reason we will be singing together inside the building again as part of our service in a desire to honour God as God by worshipping & thanking Him in song. Some of the time we will use live music and at other times we will continue to use our pre-recorded songs. **We will not be requiring people to wear face coverings while singing.**

5. Open Prayer

A time of open prayer will often take place during the service. Whether wearing a face covering or not please help and encourage one another by praying out loud.

6. Bibles

Please continue to bring your own Bible, however if you forget please ask the steward to borrow one and then leave it under your seat at the end of the service.

7. Eating and Drinking

At the moment we will not be providing any food or drink on a Sunday. Please bring your own drink if you would like to.

8. Toilets

The toilets will be available to be used should the need arise. There will be hand sanitiser on the table in the foyer which must be used before entering the toilets. Please also take an antibacterial wipe to wipe the door handle, the flush handle and then the toilet seat. The wipe must be placed in the bin NOT flushed. Please prioritise using your toilet at home and only use the church ones when necessary.

9. Touch Points

Please do not touch anything that you do not need to touch e.g. microphones, the lectern, other people's chairs, sound equipment

10. Before & After the Service

There are no longer any restrictions on interaction in the building but **please be particularly considerate to one another** in how close you are standing and how loud you are speaking.