

Bethany Christian Church

COVID-19 Guidelines for our Sunday services.

We have amended our church service guidelines to take account of the latest government guidelines that were issued on 10th December 2021. We have carried out a risk assessment and have put in place measures adhering to the guidelines set out by the UK Government.

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

Ten minutes before the service begins we will have windows open in the main hall and the kitchen door open to help ventilation. 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.

2. Covid Passports

Covid passports are not required at places of worship and so we will not be asking for proof of vaccination status, lateral flow test results or face covering exemption.

3. Face coverings

- Face coverings are legally required inside places of worship but the congregation can remove them for singing, taking communion, and when eating & drinking.
- Service leaders, Bible readers, preachers etc do not need to wear face coverings when taking part in the service
- People who are exempt do not need to wear face coverings at any time

4. Extra suggestions

- Please consider taking a lateral flow test before attending
- If you would like to be more cautious then please consider using a better quality face mask that may provide you, the wearer, increased protection eg. a P2 or P3 disposable face mask (available from shops like Screwfix or Amazon)

5. Seating

There will be a section of seating available to use if you feel you need to be more cautious.

Cautious Seating: With the exception of the front row, the right-hand side of the room next to the windows, will be kept for those who have decided they would prefer to remain more cautious. For the sake of others sitting in this area please wear a face covering if you choose to sit in this area, including when singing.

6. 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 as part of our service. Some of the time we will use live music and at other times we will use our pre-recorded songs.

- you can choose to remove your face covering to sing.

7. Bibles

If you do not have a Bible or forget to bring it with you please ask the steward for one and then leave it under your seat at the end of the service.

8. Eating and Drinking

Refreshments - while eating or drinking you can remove your face covering

Communion - while taking communion you can remove your face covering

9. Toilets

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.

10. Touch Points

Please try not to touch anything that you do not need to touch e.g. microphones, the lectern, sound equipment.

11. Before & After the Service

Remember 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.