

# Rosebery Park Baptist Church

812 Christchurch Rd, Bournemouth BH7 6DF

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17 September 2020

Dear church member or friend

## **Reopening the Church for Worship**

We are sure that you are missing the opportunity for the church community to gather together for worship. Even though we have been holding online services via WebEx, it has not been possible for everyone to participate.

However, you will be glad to know that at our deacons meeting earlier this week we decided to restart meetings at the church. From 27<sup>th</sup> September we intend to start a small meeting at 4 p.m. on Sunday afternoons.

Our morning WebEx services will continue as usual at 10.30 a.m. and we imagine that these online services will be the best choice for most members in view of the need to minimise the risk from coronavirus and the fact that we can't yet have normal services in the church.

We expect the afternoon meeting to be of interest to some people who wish to attend a physical service, even with the various restrictions that have to be in place.

The purpose of this letter is to explain what the experience of a physical service in the church will be like, and the measures that will be in place in order to minimise the risks of passing on or catching coronavirus.

## **Who should not attend**

Those who have been advised to 'shield' should not attend.

Those who are 'vulnerable' (those aged 70+ or with particular health conditions), should seriously consider not attending at this stage.

## **Changes at church**

- As you approach the building there will be a large *Important Notice* that states that if you have been tested positive for COVID-19 or have its symptoms you should not enter the building.
- You should observe social distancing of 2 metres throughout the building.
- You will have to wear a face mask while you are on the church premises.
- Because of social distancing there will be no physical greeting as you enter.
- As you enter you will be asked by one of the stewards if you have tested positive for COVID-19 or display its symptoms.
- A steward will enter your name on an attendance list. If you are a regular attender, we already have your contact details. Those who are not regular attenders will be asked for contact details. This is a mandatory requirement. It will allow us or the NHS Test and

Trace service to contact you should any member of the congregation show symptoms of COVID-19 during the service or soon after they return home.

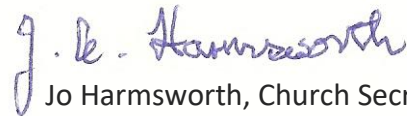
- You will also be given a copy of the church *Privacy Statement* which has details of who you should contact if you develop COVID-19 symptoms after you return home from the service.
- In the sanctuary itself there will be a 'one-way' system which will be clearly marked by arrows.
- There will be no congregational singing during the service but there will be a collection. There will be no Bibles available either, but you are welcome to bring your own.
- Seating arrangements will allow families to sit together in 'family bubbles.' Family bubbles will be at least 2 metres away from any other family bubble or individual.
- Should someone fall ill with COVID-19 symptoms during the service we have arrangements in place to deal with this occurrence as safely as possible.
- At the end of the service you should leave the building promptly and not engage in prolonged conversations. There will be no after-church refreshments.

You will realise from all this that it will be a very new experience for all of us. Please do not be daunted by these arrangements but come determined to worship God in the fellowship of Rosebery Park.

With all good wishes



Simon Bartlett, Minister



Jo Harmsworth, Church Secretary