**Christmas**

**at Wesley**

**Information, guidance, and what to expect from Christmas services in 2020**

**Intro**

This Christmas is going to be a bit different, however we are working hard to make sure that we can still focus on the heart of Christmas and hope you will be able to join in with the range of special Christmas services, whether in person or online. The following pages will give you the key points and a “walk-through” of the plans that have been put in place to ensure that services are as safe as possible, and we hope that having these details in advance will help you to feel safe and comfortable when in the building.

**Services @ Wesley**

**The “Unsung” Carol Services – Sunday 20th December at 11am and 6pm**

*These will be identical services. Please note that congregational singing is not currently permitted, but we will be making use of live and recorded music.*

**Christingle – Thursday 24th December**

**at 4pm**

**Christmas Eve Communion – Thursday 24th December at 11.30pm**

**Christmas Morning Worship – Friday 25th December at 10.30am**

**Services @ Home**

**Christingle @ Home**

For those who aren’t able to attend, Christingle packs will be available which can be used to celebrate Christingle at home, along with a YouTube service. These packs will need to be ordered in advance and can then be collected from the church. Please email leighwesleymethodist@gmail.com for further details and to order your packs!

**YouTube Services**

We understand that not everyone will be able to, or feel comfortable to, attend services in person at the church. We will therefore be offering online services which can be viewed on YouTube. Online services will be available for both Christingle and a Christmas Eve service. These services can be found on YouTube - just search for ‘Pastor Steve Mayo’, where you will also find a range of services from the last few months.

**Some Key Points**

To ensure we are able to maintain social distancing there will be limited numbers for each service, and so **booking will be required** for all of our Christmas services; both of our Carol Services, Christingle, Christmas Eve Communion and Christmas Morning Worship.

Face coverings are mandatory in places of worship. If you are exempt from wearing one, please just let a steward on duty know.

Places can be booked in **a maximum of 6** from 1 household or social bubble.

Booking can take place online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/leighwesleymethodistchurch](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/leighwesleymethodistchurch) or on sign-up sheets available at Sunday morning services – both from 1st November.

Contact details will be required for all attendees, to adhere to Test & Trace requirements. You will be asked for contact details as you book. Details will be kept in accordance with our privacy policy, which is available on our website; for online bookings please also see Ticketsource’s privacy policy.

If you have any access requirements, please let us know when you book your place. Our seating capacity includes use of the galleries; whilst there is lift access to the first floor, the galleries themselves are stepped.

Services will be shorter, at around 30 minutes.

Unfortunately congregational singing is not currently allowed, however we will be making use of both live and recorded music.

Please do not attend if you are displaying any of the symptoms of coronavirus, or if you have been told to self-isolate. Details of symptoms, guidance, and where to find information can be found at the end of this leaflet.

The accessible toilet, which has instant hot water, will be the only one in operation during this time. Please be mindful of other users and make use of the alcohol wipes provided for sanitising before and after use. The toilet will be cleaned after the service by the stewards on duty.

If for any reason the service is not able to go ahead, we will do our best to contact everyone who has booked. Please also keep an eye on our website ([www.wesleymethodist.org.uk](http://www.wesleymethodist.org.uk)), Facebook Page (‘Leigh Wesley Methodist Church’) and Twitter Feed (@leighwesleyMC).

If you will no longer be able to attend the service after booking, please just let us know and we will update the system so the places are available for others.

If you have any queries, please email Anna on leighwesleymethodist@gmail.com

**Before the Service:**

* The car park will be available for use.
* Please enter via the front doors on Elm Road (steps and ramp access are available).
* When queuing and entering the church, please maintain 2m social distancing. A one-way system has been set up in the porch area for entry/exit.
* Doors will be open 20 minutes before the service.
* On entering the church building, please wear a face covering. These are mandatory in places of worship. If you do not have one, we will have some available. If you are exempt, please just make the steward on the door aware.
* In line with the Government’s test & trace scheme, a steward will be registering attendees against the booking information as you enter the church.
* If you use the NHS Covid-19 app, a QR code is available for the church.
* There will be hand sanitiser available, and you will be asked to cleanse your hands on the way in and out.
* In accordance with social distancing, chairs will be set up in groups according to booking information, for use by the same household/social bubble, with 2m spacing between each group. Please do not move the chairs.
* We will only be using the wooden chairs, to aid cleaning, and they will be set further back from the pulpit area than usual.
* If you require a cushion for the chair, please bring one with you if possible. Any church cushions used will be quarantined.

**During the Service:**

* The service will be shorter than usual - we will be aiming for 30 minutes.
* Where possible, the doors will be left open to allow for natural ventilation.
* The government states that those leading a service in a place of worship as well as volunteers who are

assisting with activities such as reading, preaching or leading prayer do not need to wear a face covering when performing those aspects of the service. However, a face covering will be worn when social distancing cannot be maintained and when distributing communion or other consumables.

* If you would like to read the Bible, please bring this with you.
* Paper will be avoided, but single use copies will be produced if needed.
* Congregational singing is not currently permitted. Preachers may decide to play pre-recorded carols, hymns and songs, and we ask that you please refrain from singing along.
* Either live or recorded music may be played before/after the service.
* Christmas Eve Communion – PPE will be worn during preparation of the elements. Communion will be distributed to you in your seats. Whilst trying to retain the special nature of Holy Communion, we hope that you will appreciate that we must adhere to public health guidelines and prioritise your safety.
* Under current guidance, we are unfortunately not able to provide any crèche facilities or activities for children and young people.

**After the Service:**

* Whilst there will be no offertory during the service, we will be having a retiring collection at the end of each service for charity. An offertory plate will be at the door for you to place an offering should you wish to.
* At the end of the service, we respectfully ask that you leave in a considerate manner, maintaining social distancing and filing out from the back of the church first.
* Please exit via the front doors, making use of the hand sanitiser. If necessary, another exit will be made available – the stewards will direct you on this.
* Please do not congregate outside the church.
* Once the congregation have left, the stewards will ensure that each chair that has been used is cleaned, along with any contact points (e.g. door handles) or other such areas.

**We look forward to welcoming you at Christmas**

**These procedures have been put in place for Christmas Services at Wesley, by Wesley Leadership Team and the Covid-19 Working Party, following the guidance by the UK Government and the Methodist Church in Britain for returning to worship. They aim to reduce the risk as much as is practicable. These procedures will be reviewed in line with any change in guidance either from the Methodist Church in Britain or the UK Government.**

**Please do not enter the church building if you are displaying any of the symptoms of Covid-19, including: a high temperature, a new continuous cough, a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste. Please see www.nhs.uk for full information and advice.**

**If you become unwell with symptoms of Covid-19 whilst on the church premises, you should go home immediately and follow the Government’s stay at home guidance, which covers NHS Test and Trace. If you need clinical advice, you should go online to NHS 111, or call 111. In an emergency, call 999 if you are seriously ill or injured or your life is at risk. You should not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital. Other people who may have been in contact with the person who has become unwell should wash their hands thoroughly after the interaction, but do not need to take any other specific action unless they develop symptoms themselves or are advised to do so by NHS Test and Trace. If they do develop symptoms they should follow the stay at home guidance.**

**Certain groups of people may be at increased risk of severe disease from Covid-19, including people who are aged 70 or older, regardless of medical conditions. Individuals who fall within this group are advised to stay at home as much as possible and, if they do go out, to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside of their household.**

**Individuals who are shielding should continue to follow the Government’s advice on shielding.**

**This information is correct as of 27/10/2020**