**Returning to Worship**

**at Wesley**

**Information, guidance, and what to expect from returning to worship**

**Intro**

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.

Some key points:

Unless otherwise advertised, booking will not be required for worship.

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

Contact details will be required for all attendees, to adhere to Test & Trace requirements. Our privacy policy is available on our website; signing in sheets will be kept in accordance with Test & Trace requirements and then destroyed.

Our seating capacity includes use of the galleries; whilst there is lift access to the first floor, the galleries themselves are stepped. Gallery seating will only be used once the ground floor area is full.

Services will be shorter, at around 30 minutes.

Unfortunately group 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.

Please also keep an eye on our website ([www.wesleymethodist.org.uk](http://www.wesleymethodist.org.uk)), Facebook (‘Leigh Wesley Methodist Church’) and Twitter Feed (@leighwesleyMC) for further information or changes to scheduled services.

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.
* You will be asked to sign in with your name and contact number on arrival. This is just in case we need to contact you in line with the Government’s test & trace scheme. For details on how we store data, please see www.wesleymethodist.org.uk
* 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.
* To aid social distancing, chairs will be set up in pairs, for use by the same household, with 2m spacing between each set. 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 until the following week.
* We will only be using the galleries if congregation numbers require this.
* The vestry will be used only for the preacher, and the steward in charge of the collection (two stewards will be on duty for each service).
* Those who are operating the sound and overhead projection can come into the church from 10.30am to set up in advance of the service.

**During the Service:**

* The service will be shorter than usual - we will be asking preachers to aim for 30 minutes.
* Where possible, the doors will be left open to allow for natural ventilation.
* The lectern will be available for use by the preacher (it will be sanitised after each use).
* It is intended that 'Worn' microphones used by the preacher will be handled

only by the user or a member of their household - should any further assistance be necessary it will be given by a person wearing a mask who will first re-sanitise their hands.

* Afterwards, microphones will be secured unused for 72 hrs, wiped, and stored for a further 72hrs before reuse.
* The pulpit will not be in use. Instead, a microphone and music stand will be set up at the front for any readers (the music stand will be sanitised after use, and the microphone will be stored and sanitised as above).
* There will be 1 designated reader for each service.
* The preacher will be asked to combine any information/ notices/reminders with their welcome.
* 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 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. We will not be using the organ, and no wind instruments are permitted.
* Communion – PPE will be worn during preparation of the elements. We are looking at the safest way to distribute communion, and it will likely be different to what we are used to. 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. 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. the sound desk, door handles) or other such areas. Microphones will be cleaned as detailed above.

**Additional details:**

* 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.
* Online services: we know how much Pastor Steve’s online services have been appreciated, and we are looking at what online provision will be possible going forward, as we appreciate that not everybody will be able or comfortable returning to worship at the moment. Once this has been finalised, details will be circulated. Watch this space!
* Booking: at present, we don’t feel there is a need to set up a system for booking places at worship. We will review this if needed.

**We look forward to welcoming you to Worship**

**These procedures have been put in place for the return to Worship 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.**

**Leaflet updated April 2021**