



KIRDFORD CHAPEL CIO

Dear Friends,

25 July 2021

As the government has withdrawn most of its regulations relating to COVID, it is left to all individuals and organisations to decide what precautions they should take to minimise the risks of COVID to themselves and others. You may be aware that some super-markets have decided to continue with their health precautions in the interests of their customers and staff.

The leaders of the church and Roger Loosley, the Chairman of the Trustees, have given careful consideration as to the precautions that are appropriate for chapel activities at the present time, although these may be revised as circumstances change. The level of COVID infection in the Kirdford area is currently very high and so the precautions that we consider appropriate reflect this. They also reflect the biblical principles by which we are to care for each other, such as,

“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh [our human selfish inclinations]; but rather, serve one another humbly in love.” Galatians chapter 5 verse 13.

The precautions address three risks:

- a. The risk of being infected: it seems that the risk of being infected by touching surfaces such as door handles and books is low. The main risk is from other peoples’ “droplets” which are spread by breathing, coughing, singing etc. The level of risk depends on:
 - i. where they have been, who they have been with and whether they are wearing a mask;
 - ii. Whether you are with them in e. g. a crowded enclosed space.
- b. The risk to health if we are infected: this is higher the older we are and if we have any health issues. This risk is reduced by double vaccination, but it is not eliminated.
- c. The risk of spreading the infection to all the congregation, even if we do not have symptoms: this depends on our behavior, such as whether we wear a mask. The higher the level of infection the greater the risk of more mutations developing which the vaccines may be less effective against.

The precautions that will apply to services in the chapel on 24 July 2021 and until revised are:



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Seating: the current layout will remain. This is to reduce the risk of “droplet spreading”. Seats will not be allocated but if you want to sit close to someone, please ask their permission first.

Masks and singing: Everybody is encouraged to wear a mask when in the chapel for a service in order to protect other people. If this is not possible, e. g. for medical reasons, please sit at the front on the side near the piano. As the first step to “singing freedom”, we can sing behind our masks. We look forward to the time when the local infection level has dropped enough for us to dispense with masks.

Social distancing: this is encouraged. Coffee will be served outside where possible. You should only be in contact with others, such as by hugging, with their permission. As the kitchen is so small, please keep the number of people in there as low as possible and avoid having conversations.

Ventilation: we will continue to have the windows and doors open.

Bibles and Hymn books: these can be used but the readings and hymns will continue to be displayed on the screen, when we can.

Respiratory infections: As there is likely to be an increase in respiratory disease in the autumn, please do not come to any gatherings if you have any symptoms of COVID or any other respiratory disease, are self-isolating or have had contact with anybody who has symptoms or is self-isolating. . If you begin to exhibit COVID-19 symptoms during a service, please leave the service immediately, we will ensure you can get home safely. Should you develop COVID-19 symptoms within 14 days of attending a service please inform one of the Leaders (info@kirdfordchapel.org.uk).

Sanitizing: Sanitizer will continue to be available, and you are encouraged to use it.

The “One Way System” will be discontinued, and it will no longer be necessary to book a seat for services, but a record of attendance will be kept.

Whilst we look forward to meeting without restriction, we need to look after one another as we meet together and also as part of our witness to and care of the local community.

Yours sincerely,

Mim Lindsay