

Read me (2)

WHAT THE **CHURCH FAMILY** NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT
SUNDAYS **AFTER THE 19 JULY 2021**

What?

A guide to the changes you need to know about if you want to come “in person” to our Sunday morning meetings from the 19 July 2021 until a further review in November 2021.

Who?

This is for you to read (someone wanting to come along “in person” on Sundays) before you arrive.

Why?

Government regulations might have lifted from the 19 July 2021 but the guidance for indoor “crowded” places is still clear- try to maintain “hands, face, space”.

As we want to make our Sundays as safe as reasonably possible for the whole church family to get back together (which includes some who are clinically vulnerable), we still believe that some precautions are sensible and proportionate to help us reduce the risk of passing on Covid-19 during our meetings. This document sets those out nice and clearly.

The Basics...

- **Please don't come if you are unwell**

(Even if you don't have symptoms of CV-19, if you're not well, with cold or flu, please don't risk the health of others)

- **Book before you attend**

(All ages welcome, but please book using the Eventbrite website)

- **Arrive promptly**

(20-minute window before the start time of meeting, i.e., between 10:10 and 10:30am on Sundays)

- **Provide basic contact details**

(A Steward will confirm these with you for the purpose of "Track and Trace" or use the NHS App)

- **"Hands, Face, Space" remain**

(Wear a mask unless previous exempt, sanitise your hands, maintain a 1 metre plus social distance)

Keep unity...

As before, we recognise that different people in the church family have had differing views and convictions about the restrictions and measures set in place during the pandemic. As an eldership and trustee team we had encouraged you, whatever your view, to remember that as far as it was in your control, to avoid division by practicing what the Apostle Paul urges us to do in Ephesians 2:2-3:

“[Be] completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to keep unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace”.

We still want to encourage you to remember this, even if you don't agree with measures staying in place for the time being. Let's be considerate towards one another, especially those that could be most vulnerable to becoming very unwell from Covid-19.

If there are any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. We will try to listen well and answer as best as we can. Email Dave Keeping (davidk@gracechurchstoke.org) or a call to the office mobile on 07588 589414.

In more detail...

Capacity and Pre-booking

Our venue has been very limited whilst we had to maintain a large social distance 2 metres away from others outside of our own household or bubble. Now, to enable more of our families to come along, we will be reducing this distance to 1 metre (plus) and keeping our seats in separate groups.

As we still won't be back to our full seating capacity, everyone will still be asked to book into church on Eventbrite to make sure we can all safely fit. Please follow the link/button on our website to do this.

Expectations at the Church Venue

To help us prepare and clean the venue, we'll still be asking people to arrive between 10:10am and 10:25am. Please be punctual and arrive on time, especially as we're all so out of our Sunday morning routine! We've found many more guests arriving in-person since we re-opened that we want to greet. We also want to make the most of our time together by getting ready to worship and starting on time.

When you arrive the stewarding team will welcome you at the door and confirm your details. If there is a queue, please be mindful of space and don't crowd others. If you need help to find it, the stewards will also direct you to your seating area. Please stay in your seating "area" unless you want to contribute to the worship from the mic or need to access the toilets.

We are still asking everyone over the age of 11 years old to wear a face covering unless you were exempt under the previous regulations. We will be singing and interacting more closely and for this reason it is still recommended by the government to reduce the risk of transmission. Please remember that mask wearing isn't for "us" it is for the benefit of others.

All our usual activities (Grace Kids and refreshments after the service) won't be restarting until at least September 2021.

Some of the doorways are "no entry" to reduce the number of touch points in the venue. **Please respect these signs and (parents/carers) point them out to your children as our venue has always previously been "access all areas"!**

For those that have already been to the venue since we re-opened, we are no longer running a one-way system as we feel it is possible to safely manage entry and exit from the venue from the main front doors.

Hosts & Stewards

As before, we'll still have our stewarding team, however we will no longer have an "online host". Everything will now be led from the venue, although we will still live stream when the tech team have capacity to do so.

The host at the venue will now be a point of call for the teams should they have any problems. They will make the decision as to when/if we are ready to open the doors. In addition, they will often start the meeting and help the smooth flow of any contributions during the meeting.

Singing, Praying & Other Contributions During Worship

We are permitted to sing again!

The host will have a mic on a stand (so that it doesn't need to be touched by anyone) available for contributions. We ask that anyone wanting to contribute talk to the host first so that they can work with the worship leader/speaker to see when/if there is space for the contribution.

If you want to pray out loud as part of worship, it is probably best for everyone (especially those watching online) that you do so from the host's mic so we can hear you. Please don't shouting out from where you're sitting but consider other people near you that you'd be shouting over who may be more clinically vulnerable.

After the Meeting

We'll not be restarting refreshments after the morning service until at least September, principally because we want to get back into the habit of meeting together and secondly because we'll need a good number of volunteers to prepare, serve and clean up.

You are welcome to stay a while, enjoy some fellowship and catch up. Although, please maintain a considerate distance from others as you talk together. The venue will be closing roughly 20 minutes after the service ends to ensure we have enough time to clean, set down and our volunteers still get to go home at a reasonable time (remember many of them will have been there as early as two hours before the meeting started).

Toilets

Toilets will still be one person/household at a time. Apart from the disabled/baby changing toilet, the male and female toilets have a "flip" sign which we're asking everyone to use when they go in and out. Alcohol gel is available to sanitise hands at each door, so the signs should remain clean.

Building Plan...

