

Tabernacle Cardiff and Capel Y Rhath Guidelines for resuming public worship.

Update of 16 September 2020. Please see Paragraph 4 of Practical and operational measures for conducting Public Worship.

The Welsh Government Guidelines allow for the re-opening of places of worship from the 19th July. For the moment the guidelines do not go into specific details and simply allow for the resumption of public worship

The Church Council has duly taken note of this development/easing of restrictions and has had detailed discussions about how The Church should plan the way forward in the most practical and safe manner that it considers possible.

The scientific advice is that the Covid19 virus remains a significant danger and threat to public health. The Church Council is not expert on the science but believes it must react to any potential risk and danger -perceived or otherwise- prudently whilst being true to its principles of being God Honouring in decisions and actions.

Paramount to the Church Councils decisions is a steadfast belief in its duty of care for the safety and wellbeing (both spiritual and physical) of the Members and congregation/visitors to our Church Services.

For this reason the Church Council is adopting an incremental approach to the resumption of Services which entails planning carefully in advance. It is required to have a full risk assessment in place both to comply with its legal/health and safety obligations and conditions of insurance of the buildings etc. The Church Council will continually monitor and reassess the situation and will not hesitate to take appropriate measures as it sees necessary. As the Lords people we endeavour to obey the rule of law which is a witness to the community surrounding the Church and Buildings.

The Church Council is very aware that members/congregation may hold sincere opinions as to how Services should be conducted and resumed which may differ to the approach of Church Council. It prays that we might be all supportive of one another as we endeavour to resume public worship. "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful " Col 3v15.

General policy for resumption of Public Worship.

1 Tabernacle Cardiff in the first instance will (DV) meet for Worship once on a Sunday. The date for resuming the Service is Sunday 16 August 2020. This will be the morning Service at 10.30am. The morning Service will be simultaneously transmitted live via Youtube . The Sunday evening Service and mid week meetings will continue via Youtube and Zoom.

2 Capel y Rhath will for the present not resume public meetings (but continue its Youtube Ministry).

3 In line with the incremental approach, the first Tabernacle Cardiff morning Service will have a reduced congregation by invite only so that the practical and safety issues can be tested and assessed prior to opening the meeting to a larger congregation. It should be noted however that the maximum congregation number will ultimately be governed by any social distancing rules in place at the applicable times.

4 Anyone who is either still required to shield/is vulnerable on health grounds is advised not to attend. This applies if anyone feels unwell or has a temperature etc

5 Anyone who has concerns/doubts whatsoever about attending a Public Service on the grounds of safety/risk is under no obligation to attend. The Church Council fully supports and understands any such individuals.

Practical and operational measures for conducting Public Worship.

1 For reasons of public safety any Service will be limited to a maximum of one hour.

- The congregation should arrive timeously (10.00– 10.20) but not too early so as to minimise time spent within the Building (the Covid19 risk is greater within confined spaces)
- The congregation should arrive at the latest by 10.20 to permit orderly and safe entrance and onward passage to their allocated pew/seat. In terms of social distancing attendees may be asked to form a queue.

2. Anyone attending the Service will be required to give their contact details as a Register of attendees must be kept and maintained by the Church for track and trace purposes etc (A Risk Assessment tool)

3. Upon entering the Church “congregation” will be required to wash their hands with sanitary gel in the entrance foyer. Touching of surfaces etc should be avoided where possible (doors etc will have to remain open at all times to avoid unnecessary handling). The congregation will be required to wash their hands with sanitary gel when exiting the building.

4. Welsh Government Regulations stipulate that as from Monday 14 September 2020 the wearing of face masks in indoor public places including places of worship is compulsory.

- **Attendees will be required to wear a face mask throughout the duration of the Service of Public Worship**

- **The exceptions to the wearing of masks are as follows**

It is not mandatory under The Regulations for minors aged 11 years and under.

Individuals on grounds of health who are affected by the wearing of a mask .

5. Attendees should proceed directly to their allocated pew/seat. Seats/pews will be allocated to individuals/groups for the exclusive use of those individuals/groups. The allocation of seats etc is necessary to comply with the 2 metre social distancing rule.

6. It is recommended that speaking in the Church sanctuary is kept to a minimum on grounds of safety (in line with the rules that do not allow public singing of hymns).

7. It is recommended that toilet facilities should not be used during the Service except in “emergency”. A Steward will be on hand for this and will be responsible for cleaning the toilet before and after use.

8. The singing of Hymns is not permitted. Instead a recording of the hymns will be broadcast.

9. Hymn books will be in the pews for quiet contemplation of the words as the hymn is broadcast. They should be left in the pew at the end of service.

10. At the completion of the Service attendees should leave the building immediately and in an orderly prescribed manner (Stewards will be on hand to assist in this).

11. It is recommended that after the Service people do not congregate in the Street and if they do so they should observe proper distancing rules. They should also be mindful of members of the general public who might be passing and who also may want to socially distance.

12. The Service will be strictly stewarded at all times and attendees are respectfully asked to follow all instructions in this document and as may be given by a Steward during the meeting both for their well being and for the safety of others.