

Stanmore Chapel

Re-opening: what to expect

From Sunday 12 July we are planning to re-open the Chapel for our Sunday 10.30 gatherings. This document aims to give a feel for what to expect if you join us.

We recognise that it will not be possible for everyone to return to physical meetings at this stage, so we will continue to put online services on the website each week.

If you are aged over 70 or are particularly vulnerable to the effects of covid-19 due to other conditions we would ask you to follow the relevant [government guidance](#) in considering whether it would be sensible for you not to attend at this stage.

Location: We will be holding our services in the church hall – using the door into the hall from the car park for access.

On arrival: Someone will be stationed near the door to welcome and to ensure that the entrance area doesn't become crowded such that safe social distancing cannot be maintained. You will also be provided with hand sanitiser on your way in.

In the hall: Chairs will be spaced out to maintain a safe social distance of 2m. Groups from the same household will be able to sit together. We expect people, including children, to follow social distancing guidelines at all times.

The service: The service will be a shorter, simpler version of a normal Sunday morning including prayers, readings and message. There will be no singing but we will use the television screen to play hymns and music. We anticipate the service lasting no more than 1 hour.

Bibles: We will not be placing Bibles on each chair and would encourage people to bring their own wherever possible. There will not be a service sheet.

Offering: People are encouraged not to bring cash to put into the offering and to use other methods of giving.

Toilets: The toilets will be open for use.

Children: Children must observe the same safe social distancing as adults. It is parents' responsibility to ensure that this is followed. We will not be able to provide Sunday School or creche initially.

Lord's Supper: Until such time as we can do so safely, and when it is possible for the whole church to gather, we will not be celebrating the Lord's Supper.

At the end: We will not be serving refreshments and following the service people will be dismissed row-by-row to ensure that safe social distancing can be observed as we leave. For 'Test & Trace' purposes we will be keeping a record of who was present.

We recognise some of this may seem strange and arduous but we want to take seriously our duty of care whilst at the same time offering spiritual nourishment. We pray that God may protect us and be pleased to be at work in us as we gather.

We will be reviewing the above protocol regularly and revising them in accordance with any updated Government advice over the coming weeks and months.