

Resuming public worship at HPC

On 18 March the PCC approved a proposal to enable the safe return to public worship at HPC on the 4 April 2021.

This document describes how we foresee public worship taking place at HPC in accordance with the latest Church of England Risk Assessment guidelines and factoring in the current Covid-19 restrictions.

Booking a Seat for Church

It is essential that church family members pre-book a seat at church for any service.

Tickets can be booked on our church website. The bookings will close on Saturday at midday to enable the church to be appropriately set up. To book a ticket there will be a disclaimer ensuring each person declares they are feeling well and free of Covid-19 symptoms and that they are also aware that the services are live-streamed which may mean that they and any members of their household may be filmed within the service.



The Church will have been thoroughly cleaned on the Saturday before the service.

To ensure appropriate social distancing the usual layout of church has been altered. There are 50 chairs in the configuration in the Photo. They make up 19 different groupings of chairs comprising:

3x1seat, 10 x2 seats, 2 x3 seats 4 x4seats 1 x5seat.

There is a 2-metre spacing between the different groupings.

Please note this seating arrangement does not mean that we can automatically offer space for 50 people to attend our services. Households and bubbles can obviously sit together without social

distancing, but our capacity is determined by the combination of how many individuals, couples & families wish to attend.

Sadly, we are unable to accommodate all our church family in church at the same time. If there are extra unreserved seats for any given Sunday, we will send an email encouraging other people to join if they would like. By live-streaming services we also hope that those who are unable to be physically present will still very much feel part of our church family and corporate worship.

Arriving at Church

People who have reserved a seat will be asked to arrive between 10.45am and 10.50am (please no earlier).

They will be greeted by 'Welcomer 1' outside the church building and shown where to queue (alongside the exterior church and community centre wall) at 2 metre intervals. There will be floor markers to demonstrate the necessary spacing.

Welcomer 1 will have a record of all people with pre-booked tickets for that Sunday and will complete an attendance register accordingly (this will be kept for 21 days in line with the current track and trace guidelines).

Welcomer 2 will be positioned by the main entrance doors. These will be both wedged open to minimise contact with door handles. Their role is to invite people in, one (bubble) at a time and to ensure social distancing. They will also direct each person to use the hand sanitising gel that will be in the entrance lobby. Everyone over the age of 11 is required to wear a face-covering.

Welcomer 3 will be stationed at the church doors (both will be propped open) to escort the person(s) to their assigned seat(s) and ensure a consistent and safe flow of movement.

The current circumstances mean there will be no time of gathering in the central foyer **and no refreshments will be served.**

The **Sports Hall will be out of bounds** on Sunday mornings.

The Service

The service will be prepared as a simple all-age service, including music for reflection, prayers, Bible Readings and a talk. We envisage this will take approximately 50 minutes.

Sadly there are restrictions on what can and can't take place in our worship services.

Currently we are not able to sing together nor open the creche nor organise any groups for junior or youth church during the Sunday mornings in September.

Everyone is required to remain at their allocated seat during the service. We appreciate this will be difficult for some of our younger church members to do – especially as we have up until now tried to encourage a relaxed culture of generous welcome which enables our younger church members to walk around.

We do realise that this will pose a particular challenge to some families. We therefore fully understand if some families choose to connect with the live-streamed service from the comfort of their own homes rather than face the 'battle' of keeping children seated and engaged!

Departing from the Church

Welcomer 2 – will ensure the main doors are wedged open again.

Welcomer 3 – will invite different groups to leave when it is safe to do so (think Primary School method!) and ensure the reversed one-way system is enforced.

After the service has ended people are very welcome to connect with one another outside the church for physically distanced chats or to proactively arrange sports, picnics, walks at the local park etc., in line with current covid guidelines (e.g. rule of 6, bubbles, 2 households etc).

Use of Toilets

The disabled access toilet will be available to use during the service if absolutely necessary.

Welcomer 3 would be seated by the church doors and ensure people can use the toilet when it is vacant. Children (primary school age) will be required to go with their parent/carer. The blue screens and signage will be used to cordon off further access to male/ female toilets and sports hall.

The current restrictions do pose a number of logistical challenges and this paper represents our best effort to try and resume meaningful public worship in our context. It should be recognised that the service will be quite different from our pre-Covid services. Every effort will be given to creatively construct a service that helps everyone to worship the Lord, to pray, praise and hear his word. Everyone will be very welcome to participate in person or via the online stream

There is a lot of information to process in this document. Please do contact Rob if you have any specific questions that you would like clarity on.