

Risk Assessment for the re-opening of the chapel for public worship in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

NOTE: This risk assessment is for the opening of the chapel for public worship. Any other activities that take place within the chapel buildings or its ground will have to be risk assessed in line with the government guidance.

This risk assessment should be read as an addendum to the chapel's general risk assessment and risk management plan.

Covid-19 has added a new set of risks around the opening of the chapel for public worship.

This assessment aims to identify those risks and the way those risks will be managed.

The spread of Covid-19 poses a particular risk wherever people meet together. It also poses a particular risk when people are touching the same hard surfaces that have been touched by others.

The following risk assessment under the Six headings: General, Preparation, Physical Distancing, Hygiene, Cleaning and Service Content identifies the way those risks will be managed.

GENERAL

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

People need to make their own decisions as to whether or not it is safe for them to attend public worship.

The extremely vulnerable (defined as those who have received a letter from the Welsh Government informing them that they ought to shield) are advised to take special care.

The vulnerable (defined as those who are over 70 or have an underlying health condition which would make them more likely to be seriously ill if they caught the virus) are also advised to take special care.

While the chapel will take every care to ensure that people who attend are kept as safe as possible, it is up to the individual to make sure that they maintain safe social distancing.

The following people should not attend under any circumstance:

Those experiencing Corona-virus symptoms:

New continuous cough

High Temperature

Loss of or change to your normal sense of smell or taste

Those who are self isolating

Those who have been contacted and advised to self isolate by Track & Trace.

WHO SHOULD LEAVE

Anyone who becomes unwell with symptoms of Covid-19, should leave and go home. They should follow the self-isolation guidance and apply for a corona-virus test. They should inform the minister or one of the deacons by phone of their condition as soon as possible.

REGISTER

Although it is not a requirement to keep a register of those who attend, as a matter of safe practice a register will be kept in order to inform people that they may have come in contact with someone who is later diagnosed with Covid-19.

VOLUNTEERS

Whilst all offers of help are appreciated, the managing trustees should politely decline offers of help from those who are extremely vulnerable and those who are vulnerable in order not to be responsible for putting them into what could be an unsafe environment.

SEATING

In order to facilitate the ease of cleaning the cushions will be removed from the pews that are to be used.

PREPARATION

ON THE FIRST OCCASION OF OPENING

- 1). All the doors of the chapel will be opened at least one hour before the commencement of a service in order to ensure that the building is thoroughly aired.
- 2). All taps will be run for at least five minutes to reduce the risk of Legionnaires' disease.

ON SUBSEQUENT OPENINGS

- 1). Before the chapel opens for public worship, it will be thoroughly cleaned.

- 2). Only the chapel building will be open, there will be no access to the back-hall or toilets which will remain closed. (In case of fire the door to the hall will be kept unlocked as a fire escape route).
- 3). In order to maintain social distancing seats to be used will be identified and pews that are not to be used will be roped off.
- 4). To avoid congestion in the vestibule, 2-meter markers will be placed outside to ensure social distancing as people queue to enter the chapel.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- 1). STEWARDS.
 - a) There will need to be at least two stewards on the door to ensure social distancing while people queue and to show people to the designated seats.
 - b) Stewards will be required to wear face masks.
- 2). There will be signage to inform people of the need to maintain social distancing.
- 3). At the end of the service attendees, should be encouraged to leave promptly and in an orderly manner, while maintaining social distancing.

HYGIENE

- 1). There will be hand sanitizer at the entrance to the chapel and stewards will ensure that it is used before people enter the chapel.
- 2). There will be no use of communal items such as hymn books and Bibles.
- 3). It is a requirement of the Welsh Assembly that all people aged 11 or over should wear a face mask of at least three layers whilst in indoor public places, which includes places of worship. (People with a genuine health reason not to wear a mask are exempt from this rule). Disposable masks will be available from the stewards for those who arrive without one.
- 3b). The Managing Trustees have agreed that in order to aid those with hearing impediments, the person leading worship does not need to wear a mask, but should wear a clear visor and be at least two meters from the nearest member of the congregation.

CLEANING

- 1). The church will be cleaned between each service. Where possible a period of 72 hours will be left after the completion of a service before the cleaning is undertaken.
- 2). Those involved in cleaning will wear suitable protective equipment, aprons, masks and disposable gloves. Disposable items should be double bagged and put out with the normal rubbish.
- 3). All hard services shall be washed with soapy water and then disinfected with the cleaning products that are normally used. Particular attention should be paid to frequently touched surfaces such as door handles.

SERVICE CONTENT

- 1). The longer people stay together in one place, the greater the risk of the virus spreading. Following advice that services should be kept short, services will last no longer than 40 minutes.
- 2). There will be no congregational singing or responses.
- 3). If the singing of solos is to be allowed a protective screen should be purchased and erected before-hand.
- 4). There will be no communion services.
- 5). The following Procedure will be complied with in relation to the taking up of a free will offering:
 - a). No offering will be taken up during the service.
 - b). Offering boxes will be placed by the doors of the church.
 - c). The boxes will be lined with a plastic bag.
 - d). At the end of the service the treasurer (or in their absence another designated deacon) will remove the plastic bags and take them away.
 - e). After 72 hours have elapsed the offering may be counted. It is recommended that the counting is completed while wearing disposable gloves.
 - f). After counting the money should be banked in the normal way.
- 6). No refreshments will be served before or after the service.