

Elburton Methodist Church

Re-opening Church during the Covid-19 pandemic

**We hope to be able to re-open the church for worship at 10.30am on
Sunday 6th December 2020 ***

(*subject to government advice and covid-19 situation at the time)

What will church be like?

A lot of work has gone into planning how we can worship together in church and still keep each other safe. This means it will be quite different from what we are used to. Please read this leaflet to find out what this will be like. It is a lot to take in, so please ask the Church Stewards if you have any questions.



Booking

We are limited to just 30 people at each service so there will need to be a booking system. Please phone Di Smart on 405435 by the Thursday of each week to book a place for the coming Sunday morning. You will need to give her your name and phone number.

Arrival

On the Sunday morning please do not arrive earlier than 10.20am, wearing a mask correctly positioned to cover your nose and mouth.

It will be lovely to see each other, but please remember not to shake hands or hug!

Please use the hand sanitiser situated just inside the door and (observing the 2 metre distancing) proceed to the sliding door of the feature window where you will find a steward to greet you and direct you to your seat. This will be your seat for the entire morning, so please do not move your chair or sit elsewhere or we will have to sanitise/remove the chair.

The Service

Sadly we will not be allowed to sing but the words of hymns will be on the screen.

A collection bag will be by the sliding door for you to use on entry or departure.

Departure

At the end of the service you are asked to depart quickly and quietly as directed by the steward (not staying to chat) using the route by which you entered.

The Worship Area will then be quarantined for 72 hours and may not be entered.

Questions?

Entry? Both the front doors and the car park doors will be open 10 minutes before the service. Please do not come early or unlock the building yourself unless you are the duty steward. Please note that the kitchen, halls and the toilets on that level will not be available although the vestry toilet will be open to all (see below).

Can I use the toilet? Yes but only the vestry toilet will be available. Please wash your hands for at least 20 seconds after use. Anyone using the toilet is asked to use the antiviral cleaner provided to wipe down any surfaces that they have touched—door handles, flush handle, toilet seat and taps.

Can I hang up my coat?

No, please place your coat and any other personal possessions under your seat.
NB We are required to have external doors and windows open throughout the service to maintain adequate airflow, so it may well be quite chilly in the church as we move into Autumn/Winter. You may want to wear warm clothes!

Should I pick up a hymn book?

No—sadly we will not be able to sing, as research indicates that singing accelerates the spread of the virus. But we are still able to listen to hymns and other music and we can sing along in our heads! The words will be on the screen as usual.

What if I am doing a reading?

If you are doing a reading in the service, please bring your own Bible or printed copy of the reading and take it home with you afterwards.

Please stand at the lectern to read. You will need to wear your mask when walking to and from the lectern, but once you are standing there you may remove it to read.

Will we be having Holy Communion?

Not at this stage; this is currently under review.

How long will the service last?

The service will last a maximum of 45 minutes.

Updates will be found on our website: <http://www.elburtonmethodist.org.uk/>