

Pickering Methodist Church



14th August 2020

Dear Pickering family

Some of the steward team met together at Pickering recently to look at reopening the building for worship. We are planning for worship to recommence in September and the Circuit are currently working on a preaching plan for that month. We are very grateful to the property team who has been in regularly to keep the premises aired, run water through the system and generally made sure everything is safe. The whole church has been cleaned during the last few months, and will be cleaned again before worship restarts.

We are writing to you now to explain what it will be like when you come to church.

Please remember the rules that everyone has become used to when going shopping or going into any other building:

Please keep your distance, 2 metres (6 feet) where possible, it will be great to see each other again but please wave and don't get close enough to shake hands.

You need to wear a face covering (unless you cannot do so for medical reasons) throughout the whole service (those leading worship can take the covering off when speaking).

When you arrive:

There will be signs up to remind you about the guidelines and will be down the side of the building as you walk up to the hall.

You will be greeted by a steward outside of the automatic doors who will direct you into the building.

You will find hand sanitiser next to the kitchen door plus other sanitisers at the entrance, please use them.

A steward will take a note of who attends worship, in case we need to tell Track & Trace.

You will be then directed to a seat in the hall

You will not be given a hymnbook. Any papers you get please take home and dispose of them.

We are not allowed to sing, but we will have music to compensate for no singing.

The service will be shorter, about 40 minutes, and when it is ended please leave the same way you came in and not stay and chat.

You will be guided by the stewards.

You can speak to each other outside the building, in the fresh air.

You can sanitise again as you leave the building.

Other things to know:

There will be a plate at the door for any offering you have brought, please drop it in.

The toilets will be open except the toilet in the hall which will be closed, but only one at a time in the toilet.

Please read the instructions on the toilet door before entering.

We will be able to have 15-20 people safely in the hall; we can also overflow to the coffee lounge.

The numbers will be assessed each week.

The first service will be Sunday 6th September at 10:30am.

We will not have communion at the first services, and follow strict guidelines when it is shared.

We will not have refreshments after worship at first, but this is a possibility at some stage.

It goes without saying please don't come if you feel unwell!

I know all this sounds a bit daunting but we will do everything possible to help you feel safe and we do hope you will feel able to join together for worship again.

Blessings to you all Pickering Stewards

p.s. Thanks from the Treasurer

Just a note to say a big 'Thank You' to all at Pickering for your continued Giving over the last 5 months or so.

With your contributions, and some further reductions in our regular fixed costs, we have managed maintain our cash flow and end the financial year (end of August) in positive territory! So with your continued contributions whilst the repair works in the Sanctuary continue we should be able to maintain our financial position until we can go back to full worship in the Chapel.

Martin