

## Returning to Sunday Services and ChristChurch Covid19 Code of Conduct

### *Starting Point*

While the government guidance does now allow us to meet for corporate church meetings, there are a number of things that have to be in place to minimise the risk for those who attend. How we meet will not be the same as before lockdown, and while that may take some adjustment-it is necessary. We also need to be aware that not everyone may feel at ease with returning to corporate meetings just yet, or that they are at high risk medically so it would not be advisable for them to do so. We must have grace to allow each individual and or household to go at their own pace without judgement or condemnation. We must also be mindful of this when we do come together and respect one another's space without taking offence.

### *What will the meeting be like?*

To start, the number of people able to attend is determined by our capacity to ensure a 1.5-2m distance between individuals or households. This will vary slightly depending on the make up of those attending, but will probably not be more than around 45 people on any given Sunday. This means we will have to have a system for people to book a seat. This will be via the church website but we will also have to have a second or parallel system for those who are not online. One of the main differences will be that we will come together only to worship and listen to the preach. Everyone will have to wear a face mask/ covering for the duration of the meeting. The only exceptions would be the music team vocalists and the preacher while they are up front and children under the age of 11 years old. Social distancing will need to be adhered to at all times –so no hugging, shaking hands etc. We will all need to arrive, apply hand sanitiser in the entrance, find our seats and then after the preach exit promptly and leave. We will not be able to bring any food or drink as it would require removing a mask to consume it (the only exception would be the music team bringing their own bottled water) We will not be able to walk around and socialise either in the building or in the car park. While it would be possible to chat from your seat before the meeting starts, please remain in your seat with your mask on. At this stage there will be no Children's Ministry or Youth Ministry on a Sunday. The only areas of the building that will be accessible are the front half (Entrance Hall, front Toilets, Main Hall) - the Youth Room, Coffee Lounge and adjoining Toilets, Kitchen and Children's Hall will all be out of bounds. There will be a one-way entrance/exit route. The main entrance, as per normal, will be the entrance with the door always open and the double doors to the Main Hall also open. The Mother & Baby Room and James' Office will become the exit routes. Cones will block off these car parking spaces to ensure exits are free at all times. Only the front Toilets will be available, however we are asking that their use be kept to an absolute minimum and that everyone ablute before leaving home. Should it be necessary to "use the facilities" you will be expected to wipe down the surfaces before and after use with the cleaning products provided and apply hand sanitiser after having washed your hands for 20 seconds. Only one person will be allowed in the toilets at a time. If your young child needs to use the toilets, we ask that in the first instance you use the disabled toilet which is now for both disabled and parent & child use. This has a low-level washbasin so children can easily wash their hands. It is the responsibility of the adult with them to wipe down surfaces after use.

Tithes and offerings will be in the form of a deposit box on the wall near an exit. There will also be hand sanitiser to be used as people exit. All the regular chairs have been removed and replaced with the folding chairs as these are easy to clean and reduce potential contamination. New moulded plastic chairs have been bought for small children. All the areas to be used have been thoroughly cleaned and will be cleaned between meetings. We will need to have a team of volunteers to do this each week on a rotation basis. We have a supply of masks, gloves, disposable aprons and all the necessary cleaning products for this. (Should you wish to volunteer to help with the cleaning please contact James or Lisa). We would like to be able to have sung worship during the meetings. This is not prohibited by the government but we do need to take into consideration a number of factors. The band will always be a minimum number of people and preferably from as few households as possible at each given time. The band will also be allocated seats at the front of the hall to enable them to take a seat safely for the preach. This will also mean that the distance between the band and congregation will be in the region of around 7 metres. All "congregational singing" would have to be done while wearing a mask and we would also ask in line with government recommendations that you not sing too loud or shout. Both the worship and preach would be reduced in length so that the entire meeting can be done within an hour. There would be no notices and it goes without saying there will be no tea & coffee or communion. We are looking at how any contributions during worship could be made as it will not be possible for individuals to come up to the front. Until we have a workable solution for this we ask that should you have a contribution to please send it through to James via text, WhatsApp or email.

### *How are we going to move forward?*

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July we had a Sunday meeting with a few specific people so that we could test our procedures and sort out any changes. That meeting went well and we can now effectively and responsibly start weekly Sunday morning meetings - we will take it week by week and always in line with government regulations. As regular meetings have now been ongoing for a few months, we are now able to accommodate children of all ages. However, the parents/carers of children that are 11 years old and younger need to have attended at least one Sunday meeting each before they can come with their children. This is so that they are fully aware of what a service and the environment is like in order for them to be prepared and to be able to prepare their children for the changes. This is because our church children have always had the freedom to move around in the church building and interact with friends and this is not going to be possible. We will continue to publish online all our weekly resources, preaches etc. as has been done since the beginning of lockdown in March. If at any time the government guidelines change we will re-evaluate what we are doing and make the necessary adjustments accordingly. As additional meetings are added the information for those will be published separately from this document, but all protocols and codes of conduct will remain. Please familiarise yourself with the necessary information before attending any ChristChurch meetings. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

### **Corporate Prayer**

This weekend we are starting back with Corporate Prayer at the building. It will be from 17:30 – 18:00. The hall will be set up with pairs of chairs spaced at the relevant distances (total of 30 seats per week). We will **NOT** be requiring pre-booking, although the same Code of Conduct applies as for the morning meeting. If someone arrives that was not at church in the morning they will be asked to agree to the same list of questions as a Sunday morning booking requires. We will also have a list of who is there for Test and Trace purposes. To start with we will not be having corporate worship as part of the prayer meeting and masks must be worn for the duration in keeping with government guidance. We will endeavour to do a live stream for those unable to make it. This may very well be a bit hit and miss while we find our way, iron out issues and test different platforms. If you have any queries, please contact James.