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Dear Friends,

As promised I write to explain procedures for how we are going to open church for morning worship on September 6th. Things will be different, we have no other choice, but hopefully the joy of being together will enable us to cope with the necessary changes to what was normal. The 3pm service in recent weeks has been valuable in allowing us an idea of how life might be.

A couple of important points:

- For the time being everyone over the age of 11 will be asked to wear a face covering unless they have an exemption. Those involved in leading the service can remove coverings while addressing the congregation
- We are told we need to have a defined way in and way out which minimises contact with surfaces
- On arrival we have to complete a register of all attending the service
- Anyone wishing to attend a service will need to let Richard know by email, phone or text by the end of the preceding Wednesday (Alternatively folk could make a block booking for every Sunday and let me know by the Wednesday when you cannot make it). If more people ask to attend than can be accommodated lots will be drawn. Call, texts or emails will be made/sent on the Saturday indicating whose names have been drawn.
- You can sit with anyone from your household or with whom you are in a bubble but will need to be 2m distance from anyone else.
- Folk should not offer lifts to people who are not part of their household or with whom they are bubbled
- You may be asked to sit in a particular place
- We are not allowed congregational singing. One person can sing, we already have five people who have volunteered, if you might be able to help please let me know
- At the end of the service there will be an orchestrated way of departing
- If you turn up not having reserved a place you may not be allowed in
- Some folk may be asked to sit in the hall to watch a live relay
- If we have more wanting to come than we can accommodate we will look at a second service at a time which will allow cleaning between services

- There will be no refreshments at the end of the service for the time being
- Government advice says the service should last about 45 minutes
- The 10.30am will still be streamed

I know these measures seem to contradict what we are about but the circumstances we live in offer no alternative. I hope we can all manage to work with these arrangements. All of course is subject to change.

From September 6th those arriving will gain access through the door to the right of the sliding doors. This is to help us maintain the register of who is present. The Jteam will not operate immediately but have decided to wait until schools have returned to assess the best way forward. Our aim has to be keep everyone as safe as we can, especially, those who are more vulnerable.

My apologies for what feels like a list of rule and regulations

A request, as we will be having to lay out a new seating a pattern each week. If anyone is willing to help lay out the chairs on a either a Friday or a Saturday please let me know. Hopefully, it will not take too long and a rota of volunteers would be areal blessing

Finally a reminder of our AGM which meets at 7.30pm on Wednesday August 26th at 7.30pm via zoom. I will send a zoom invitation to all for whom I have an email, it would be really helpful if you could let me know if you intend coming. For those who wish to attend via the telephone on the night you can do so by phoning one of the following numbers:

0203 051 2874

0203 481 5237

0203 481 5240

And when requested enter the code 584 520 6824. Again if you aim to be present please could you let me know

Let us hope and pray as we return to worship in church that our services will be a blessing to all who are there and all who continue to watch the stream

Blessings

Richard