RPC- Covid Meeting Safety Guidelines

I am sure we are excited about being able to meet in person once again. However, as we are all aware, the government have produced a set of guidelines for us to put in place to keep us safe. Please read below to see how these changes will affect our times together.

Firstly, due to social distancing, numbers attending our service will be limited. We will have to operate an informal booking system and nominate seats. Our priority will be our own members and unbelievers. Unfortunately, we do not have the capacity to invite believers from other local churches at the moment. However, we have space for all those who responded to my recent invite and a few more. 😊

**The Building Layout**

We have managed to provide a 2m walkway at the back and side of the church hall. This is marked by tape with 2m marks provided.

We have managed to set a 1.5m spacing between all the seating. We have also included the many extra measures outlined in this document to further prevent infection. We consider this to be a better safeguard than the 1m plus which was the governments lower limit.

We have also left a 3m + gap between the ‘lectern’ and the front row.

**A reminder of symptoms: -** *‘A new, continuous cough or a high temperature or loss of or change to sense of smell or taste’.* If you have these symptoms, please stay at home and self-isolate/ get tested according to guidelines.

**Additional measures we will be implementing based on government advice for worship services.**

**Entrance and Exit**

* The main door will be our only entrance point (The kitchen entrance will not be used) and the fire door our only exit point.
* There will be 2m markings outside, for the entrance and exit.
* There will be hand sanitisers to use on entering and exiting the building.
* To improve the ventilation, we will have windows and a door open.

**Creche/ Sunday School**-

* There will be no Sunday school meetings. Ideally, we would like children to remain in the service. However, a creche for parents to take their children, if needed will be available. Social distancing to be adhered to. (In the JAM room next to the lady’s toilets).
* Parents will need to bring along toys/ drawing/ colouring books etc for their children.
* **Face Masks-** Whilst not compulsory, feel free to wear face masks. Please bring your own if you have one, but we have a limited number available for those without. They are not proven to prevent you catching the infection, but possibly can prevent you passing on the infection.
* **Toilets-** To minimise risk of infection we are asking folk to avoid using the toilets if possible. (Go to the loo before you leave 😊) However, they will be available if needed. We will operate a one in and one out system. There will be no queuing but there will be a flip sign showing free/ in use on a chair by the doors leading into the corridor. There will also be wipes for you to clean down surfaces touched. (e.g. flush handle, toilet seat, door lock, tap) Please place in the bin after use.
* **Service Time**- We will also be reducing the normal time of our service. It will be on par with our previous online service at approximately one hour. We will start at 10.30am as normal.
* **Refreshments**- Initially we will not be providing refreshments after the service. This will be re-assessed moving forward according to safe practice.
* **No singing or instruments**. We will have songs played on the screen like with our current online services. Whilst we cannot sing out load, we can certainly sing with passion and gusto from our hearts. It is a place the Lord focuses on anyway😊. (The government are continuing to carry out research into this area. So, a change may not be too far down the line)
* **Giving-** We are very appreciative of all those that have moved to standing order/ online donations. However, for those still wanting to give via the offering box we will make that option available. This will be done by an offering box at the rear of the church. There will be no seat to seat collection.
* **Non-essential social spaces**. We will only be using the main hall. (Except for creche provision).
* **Rubbish**- Could you please take all rubbish home.
* **Physical Contact**- No contact between people and their items of different households/ bubbles and maintaining social distancing.
* **A reminder**- *‘When you cough or sneeze, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, or the crook of your sleeved arm (not your hands) if you don’t have a tissue, and throw the tissue away hygienically’*.

**NHS TEST & TRACE**

* To comply with the government test and trace system all people attending will need to be recorded. As we know all members contact details, we will simply take a photograph of those in attendance. This will only be kept for 21 days in line with data protection guidelines. Anyone joining our meetings who are unknown to us would need to provide contacts details.