

Towards an initial re-opening of the building

The Government announced over the weekend of 6th-7th June that places of worship across England will be permitted to reopen for individual prayer from Monday 15th June.

Whilst individual prayer will be permitted, communally led prayers, worship services of any form and informal prayer meetings (such as Morning Prayer) will not be possible at this time. Individual prayer within a place of worship is defined as a person or household entering the venue to pray on their own and not as part of a group, led prayer or communal act. They should be socially distanced from other individuals or households. The Government will continue to work with the Taskforce towards the full reopening of places of worship as soon as the scientific advice allows.

Places of worship still have discretion over when they consider it safe to open and may decide to remain closed or reopen at a slower pace if they wish.

Places of worship may now open for ministers of religion to film or record a service for broadcast, and for the hosting of essential voluntary activities such as for registered early years and childcare provision.

The trustees are asked to bear in mind that the usage for private prayer is likely to be limited, but we may see an increased need due to a perceived greater spiritual need in the community.

Advice is that in our context there does not need to be an on-site presence to monitor access.

Prior to reopening, you are asked to consider and agree the following:

Are we happy to reopen for private prayer assuming the following controls have been put into place?

- a) A risk assessment has been completed (see appendix 1).
- b) The building has been thoroughly cleaned prior to opening (see risk assessment for details).
- c) An ongoing and suitably stringent cleaning regime is in place.
- d) All communal items have been removed and stored (worship sheets, hymn books, resources from shelves).
- e) Pews and chair rows are closed off to provide social distancing measures (likely to be two in ever three closed).
- f) Opening hours have been agreed to avoid potential congestion with pre school arrivals and departures (if pre school in chapel or hall) – suggest opening from 10am to 4pm weekdays and dawn to dusk at weekends.
- g) Locking and unlocking regime in place.
- h) Only the porch entrance to be used.
- i) Notices placed at the door (see appendix 2).
- j) Hand sanitizer provided both in the porch and within the chapel.

Risk Assessment for

Re-opening for Private Prayer Only

| Area of Focus | Controls required | Additional information | Action by who? | Completed – date and name |
|---|---|--|----------------|---------------------------|
| Preparation of the Chapel for: - private prayer and/or livestreaming by a minister (and a member of their household if needed) | Opening times communicated and publicised in the community. | Include notice on chapel wall/ fence. | | |
| | One point of entry to the chapel building clearly identified. | Porch Entrance. | | |
| | Information notices displayed. | Opening times on notice and hygiene notices in porch and within the welcome area. | | |
| | Wall mounted hand sanitizer pumps provided in the porch and chapel. | Purchase wall mounted pumps. | | |
| | A suitable lone working policy has been consulted. | | | |
| | Buildings have been aired before use. | | | |
| | Check for animal waste and general cleanliness. | Initial cleaning to take place to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dusting and vacuuming of all surfaces • Washing of all surfaces with suitable disinfectant cleaner | | |
| | Designated pews identified and others cordoned off. | Two in every three pews closed. | | |
| | Cordon off chancel area to reduce areas available to the public. | | | |
| | Communal items removed. | Bibles and texts, hymn books, other resources. | | |
| Ensure water systems are flushed through before use. | | | | |

| Area of Focus | Controls required | Additional information | Action by who? | Completed – date and name |
|--|--|---|----------------|---------------------------|
| | Switch on and check electrical and heating systems if needed. | Electrical systems not disabled. Heating not required over summer months. | | |
| | Any font are empty. | Font empty and no water stoups in place | | |
| Cleaning the chapel after general use (no known exposure to anyone with Coronavirus symptoms) | Check all cleaners are not in a vulnerable group or self-isolating. | Most of current teams are. Therefore email congregation seeking those who are able to assist. | | |
| | Ensure weekly cleaning regime in place with suitable products available. | Provide laminated sheet for cleaning teams to follow. | | |
| | Check liability insurance is up to date. | Renewed on | | |
| | All cleaners provided with gloves (ideally disposable) to protect their skin from exposure to cleaning materials. | See the advice note on keeping chapel buildings clean. | | |
| | Suitable cleaning materials provided, depending on materials and if historic surfaces are to be cleaned. | See the advice note on keeping chapel buildings clean. | | |
| Cleaning the chapel after known exposure to someone with Coronavirus symptoms | If possible close the chapel building for 72 hours with no access permitted. | | | As required |
| | If 72-hour quarantine is not possible then follow Public Health England guidance on cleaning in non-healthcare settings. | Public Health England guidance available here. | | As required |
| | If the building has been quarantined for 72 hours, then carry out cleaning as per the normal advice on cleaning. | See the advice note on keeping chapel buildings clean. | | As required |

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE
BEFORE ENTERING THE CHAPEL

Welcome to

The Chapel building is now open for private prayers only.

Private prayer within a place of worship is defined as a person or household entering the building to pray on their own and not as part of a group, led prayer, or communal act.

You are very welcome, but please remember the need to take additional hygiene precautions.

- Please use the hand sanitizer provided before entering.
- Touch as few surfaces as possible inside the building.
- Only sit in the open pews.
- Please use the hand sanitizer again upon exit.

If you have any Covid-19 symptoms within 72 hours of being in the building, please let us know by emailing:

..... or tel:

[Contact details here]