

If you need further information please feel free to contact us

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Guidance on attending Highams Park Baptist Church during Covid-19 restrictions

We are so pleased to be able to reopen our church building and welcome back our church family to worship our Lord and God together in person again.

However Covid-19 remains with us for the foreseeable future and so some things have had to change to ensure that we protect each other and remain as safe as we can.

This leaflet describes the things we have put in place to keep you as safe as possible and the things that you need to do and are advised to do.

This will be updated as guidance from both the government and the Baptist Union changes.

Please continue to pray for those who are responsible for making decisions nationally, locally and within our church membership, that advice is taken and acted upon to minimise the spread of Covid-19 so that we may begin to return to a more normal life as soon as possible.

We look forward to seeing you soon

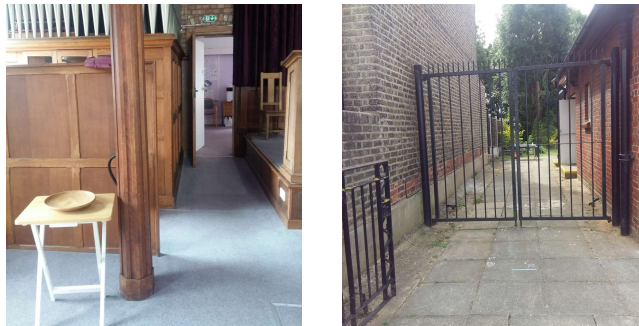
The Church Council

Version 1, August 2020

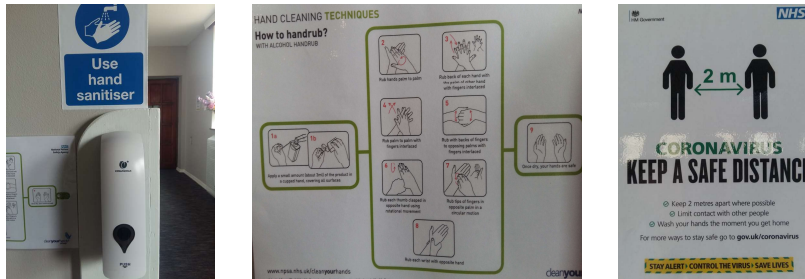
Things we are doing/have done to keep you safe:

- You will be greeted at the door by the duty deacon who will check that you don't have any Covid symptoms. They will record who attends for the purposes of track and trace should it be required.
- We have created a one way system. Entrance is through the normal front door and the exit route is through the vestry into the church garden and out by the gate next to the kitchen. Those with mobility difficulties will be guided an alternative route to the garden to avoid the step from the vestry.

New exit route



- We have installed hand sanitiser dispensers and information posters.



Reminders:

- The situation is constantly changing and we will do our best to keep you updated when we have to change our guidance
- Please arrive promptly but not before 9:45am
- Keep everyone safe by keeping your distance and consider wearing a face covering
- If the church has reached its capacity of 40 people you will unfortunately be unable to enter
- HPBC services are now going to be streamed online so if you do not feel able to join us in person yet, you will still be able to share in the service if you have access to the internet. For more details please visit www.hpbc.co.uk
- If you have any questions or concerns please ask a member of the church council and we will do our best to help
- We are still one family, caring for and looking out for each other, many things remain the same even though there are some practical changes

Keep safe everyone

Things you might want to consider:

- Bringing your own bible with you if you wish to follow the reading
- Wearing a face covering to protect others. We are not insisting you do this at the present time although this will change if it is made mandatory in enclosed spaces. But you might feel more comfortable wearing a scarf, face mask or visor. The duty deacon will be wearing protection as they greet you at the door as they may need to get closer than 2m to you.
- If you are a vulnerable person it is up to you to decide if you wish to attend the service after you weigh up the risks to yourself. Whilst we would love to see you, staying safe at this moment in time is more important
- If you are vulnerable and wish to attend but have particular needs, it would be helpful if we knew these beforehand so we can do our best to assist you
- If you have young children with you please bring something quiet to occupy them if needed as the toy corner has had to be put away for now

- The frequency of cleaning has been increased and the cleaning team has a checklist of everything that needs to be done.
- Doors will be open so you do not need to touch them.
- Chairs in the sanctuary are socially distanced. Currently 2m apart.



- Shared hymn books and bibles have been put away
- Singing is currently banned so the service will be shorter and consisting of talks, prayers, sermon and reflections
- Celebration of Communion is currently on hold
- Windows will be open to maximise the ventilation
- The offering will be received by way of a plate, located by the organ, for you to leave any donations on your way out of the sanctuary at the end of the service.

Things you need to do to help to protect others:

- If you have a fever, persistent cough or loss of smell of taste, or have been advised to self-isolate please do not come into the church building but self-isolate at home and get a Covid-19 test
- Be guided by members of the church council if they ask you to do something
- Be aware that it will take extra time to get people into the sanctuary. You may be required to queue outside before the service, please ensure you socially distance from others whilst you wait. Please arrive between 9:45 and 10am to be seated
- When you enter the building please use the hand sanitiser
- Please minimise use of our toilets by using your own facilities before you come to church. Only people from one household can be in the toilet at once and you are asked to clean the areas you touch with antibacterial wipes when you are finished. Children under 11 should be accompanied by an adult.
- Only touch door handles and light switches if essential
- Stay in your seat throughout the service unless you need to use the toilet
- Keep your children with you at all times and do not let them wander around
- Please do not raise your voice to talk to others at a distance as this increases the distance that droplets travel. This is also why currently, sadly, we are unable to sing.
- Remain socially distanced at all times from those of our church family that do not live with you or are not in your “bubble”
- Take any rubbish home with you. If you have a news bulletin please take it home with you and recycle it when you have finished with it.
- Unfortunately we are unable to share refreshments after the service at the moment. If you need to have food or drink during the time you are here please bring it with you. Currently Fellowship Hall and the kitchen are not to be used.
- After the service please remain seated until you are called forwards to the exit
- We understand that you may want to say hello to people that you have not seen for a long time but you are requested that you do not do this in the street outside. Whilst you are urged not to linger, if you need to speak to someone, please do this in the space of the garden whilst remaining socially distanced from those not in your bubble
- Please read the information posters that have been put up