

Restoration of Worship Post-COVID-19

V1.8 19th July 2021

Westoning Baptist Church

This policy has been developed following the closure of Westoning Baptist Church for services of worship since Sunday 22nd March 2020 due to government restrictions to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus and regularly updated in accordance with government guidance and the roadmap out of covid restrictions.

COVID-19 Risk Assessment is attached and has been shared with the members and congregation and uploaded to the website

1. COVID-19 symptoms

1.1. Anyone who is clinically vulnerable should follow government and medical guidance regarding whether they attend services – online access will be available.

1.2. No one with symptoms of COVID-19 – high temperature, persistent cough or loss of taste or smell should attend services – a notice to this effect is on the front door.

2. Register

2.1. A temporary register will be kept of people attending the services in order to support the NHS Test and Trace service – name and contact telephone number and/or email address

2.2. All records will be destroyed after 21 days

3. Social distancing

3.1. We will continue to maintain 2m distance as much as possible between individuals and households at all services.

3.2. Pews will be sectioned off to ensure 2m distancing and pews designated for visitors

4. Hand hygiene

4.1. Hand sanitiser will be available on entrance to the chapel

5. Reduce risk of cross-infection

5.1. Windows and doors will be kept open as much as possible without impacting worship

6. Online services

6.1. Online services will continue to be provided for those who are unable to attend due to illness, frailty or shielding

7. Lord's supper

- 7.1. We hold the Lords Supper at the close of the service. Those who wish to leave may do so. Those staying shall remain in their seats.
- 7.2. Bread will be pre broken and put into individual pots sealed pots and wine put in cups with prior to the service. The person doing so will carry this out in a hygienic manner.
- 7.3. Those distributing the elements will sanitise their hands.
- 7.4. The bread pot and the wine glass will be distributed to members and safely gathered in afterwards for washing or disposal as appropriate.

8. Special services, Baptisms, weddings and funerals

- 8.1.. A specific risk assessment will be carried out as the need arises if the service will be different from usual Sunday worship arrangements.

9. Singing and music

- 9.1. There are no longer any restrictions on singing.

10. Sunday school

- 10.1. For children aged up to 18 years old.
- 10.2. No children should attend if they have symptoms of coronavirus

11. Other Matters

- 11.1. Face coverings will no longer be compulsory from 19th July.
- 11.2 The children will remain in their seats for the children's talk.
- 11.3. After church fellowship will take place periodically with the opportunity to social distance outside.
- 11.4. Prayer meetings will remain socially distanced

12. COVID-19 Cases

- 12.1. If anyone has symptoms of COVID-19 after attending the church they should inform Martin Hare.
- 12.2. The church will take advice from Public Health England on handling any cases linked with worship.

