

# **Covid-19 and the re-opening Ashbourne Baptist Church**

**on Sunday August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020.**

“How lovely is your dwelling place, LORD Almighty!  
My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.”

As the government restrictions regarding churches have been relaxed on 4<sup>th</sup> July, we have been thinking and praying as we look forward to meeting again together as a church. We are intending to meet at the Brailsford Institute for the next few weeks, while the Empire Hall is unavailable. (Main Rd, Brailsford, DE6 3BT)

I'm sure we are eager to be back together to worship, pray, hear from God's Word and have fellowship together again. But at the same time a bit anxious that everything should be done carefully and safely.

Some people may be at increased risk of severe disease from Covid- 19. Those who are extremely clinically vulnerable or shielding, and those who are aged 70 or more, may want to take particular care. Please let us know, if you feel unable to attend at the moment, so we can continue to support you in different ways. It is very important, if you have any symptoms of Covid-19 or are self-isolating, that you do not attend the Church.

The sermons will now be recorded live during the Sunday services, and will later be uploaded onto the website. CD's will still be sent to those who cannot access them online.

Should visitors attend they will need to give their contact details to us and we will accommodate them if possible.

In order to open the Church safely, there will be some changes we need you to be aware of so that everyone is kept safe and so that we are following government guidance. Things will be very different for everyone as we return. We expect everyone will find the first few services a bit awkward and odd. (Like most other things in lockdown!) We also acknowledge there will be a range of opinions and approaches to the Covid restrictions, some may think they are over-the-top, others may be concerned they are not enough, so we will need to be understanding of each other, and to seek unity.

## **Before the Service:**

Please make sure you read the following instructions, and let Nathan know by Saturday, if you are planning on attending church so we can allocate seating.

## **On Arrival:**

As you arrive in the Church, please use the hand sanitizer provided and enter by the main door. There will be a one way system round the building. **New regulations include wearing a face mask while in the building for the church service.**

You will be allocated a seat, as a household 'bubble' 2meters from others.

### **During the Service:**

In order to aid ventilation during the services all the windows and doors will be open, so please dress appropriately!

Congregational hymn singing is not allowed, but we will try some other ways to worship God together:

- Quietly reading a hymn together.
- One person singing, (with microphone and Perspex screen) while others read along quietly.
- Listening to music / recording while we read along.

It will not be quite the same, but we hope to find ways we can bring heartfelt worship to God in spirit and in truth. If anyone would like to pray, read the scriptures or lead us in singing, please let me know.

We are unable to have Sunday School for the foreseeable future, we hope to send worksheets by email for parents to print for their children if they wish. You will have to provide your own pens etc.

When we have communion it will be served in a different way. The bread and wine will be pre-packaged and will be collected by individuals when entering the building.

### **After the Church service**

There will be no refreshments.

Please exit the church by the side door.

Please do not sit in someone else's seat or in seats which are not in use, before, during or after the service.

You can chat with friends on the grass outside, but observing social distancing (2 metres).

### **Set Up and Pack Up:**

A team will wipe down high touch areas (door handles, light switches, seats) and set out the seating.

Microphones, stands etc should only be touched by the person using them.

After the service we will need to pack away, and wipe down surfaces. (If you are able to help with these tasks please let us know)

**Other Notes:**

Please try to not use the toilets unless it is essential. (Then you will need to wipe all the surfaces of toilet, sink, and door handles afterwards with antiseptic wipes.)

We will need to record the names of everyone attending each service. This information will be kept by the Church for 21 days and will then be shredded in line with Church data protection policy. Should someone later test positive for Covid-19 (within 14 days of attending a service), they must inform the Elders. All those present at the same service(s) will be contacted and will need to self-isolate for 14 days. In this situation, all those attending will need to be aware that their contact phone number will be passed on to the Track and Trace service.

Unfortunately we are not going to be able to give lifts to people for the foreseeable future.

*Government guidance has been changing frequently, therefore over time we will amend these notes and update our practices as the restrictions and Government guidance are updated.*

"Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere;  
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.  
For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favour and honour;  
no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.  
LORD Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you."