



COVID-19: Guidance for Reopening Hyde Street Chapel (Dec 2020)

Dear Friends,

On Sunday 6th December, the doors of Hyde Street Chapel will reopen for public worship.

Inevitably there are restrictions as to how we can gather, but we are convinced that the value of being together and engaging in corporate worship once again far outweighs the limitations. It is important that as we seek to honour the Lord we also respect those placed in authority over us and the guidance they have laid down, not only for the wellbeing and safety of our church family, but also out of love and concern for our neighbours, seeking to maintain a good witness.

If it is your intention to attend the church in person on a Sunday (or midweek as and when on-site meetings resume), please pay close attention to the instructions below.

Note, as of 2nd December, Winchester falls within Tier 2 under which “[places of worship remain open but you must not socialise with people from outside of your household or support bubble while you are indoors there, unless a legal exemption applies](#)”. It is understood this means households/bubbles must not “interact, mingle or otherwise socialise together”, and for this reason all attendees will be encouraged to leave the building promptly at the conclusion of the Lord’s Day services.

Heath & Wellbeing

1. Please do not come if you have a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste. If you feel unwell during the service, please go home immediately.
2. Those over 70 and in the vulnerable category should seriously consider staying at home.
3. Technology-permitting, services will be broadcast live (and recorded) using Zoom for those who are unable to attend meetings in person. Video and audio recordings will be posted to Youtube and the church website respectively.

Access

4. Only the front entrance will be used for entry and exit unless in an emergency when fire exits will be brought into use. The gate at the rear will be locked unless access is required for a disabled visitor.

Social Distancing

5. If there is a queue on approach to the building, please adhere to the social distancing rules and if needed hang back to allow others to enter the chapel before approaching.
6. The building has been arranged with social distancing measures in place. We have adhered to the 2-metre distancing rule and signage to remind attendees of this can be found throughout the building. On arrival at the chapel regular attendees should proceed to their usual seats (as previously assigned to them) and guests will be ushered to a seat appropriate to the number in their party. A gap of 3 empty seats (or 2 empty seats under the “1-metre-plus” rule) should be maintained between persons from different households in one row of chairs.
7. To avoid congestion, attendees should not stop in the entrance or aisles. They should make their way to their seat and remain there throughout the service, except if they need to use the toilet. (See below section re children and use of the side hall).



8. When using the toilet facilities please wait outside the block using the social distancing floor markers until a cubicle becomes free.

9. At the conclusion of the service, attendees should leave the building promptly and directly in an ordered fashion to maintain social distancing.

Hygiene

10. [The wearing of face coverings within the chapel building is compulsory \(by law\)](#). Disposable masks will be available near the entrance.

11. The building will be cleaned and sanitised after each service. The side room will also be cleaned between Sunday School and the main service.

12. Sanitiser dispensers have been placed in the foyer, the toilet block, and the kitchen. Please take care to use the hand sanitiser on arrival before entering the main hall, and when leaving the premises.

13. When using the toilet facilities please read the instructions displayed outside before use and follow these carefully to minimise the risk to yourself and others. Please leave the outer door to the toilet block wedged open to assist with ventilation.

14. Non-essential areas of the building, including the kitchen, will be out of use. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own water or other drinks for consumption during the service.

15. All attendees are strongly encouraged to bring their own bibles and not to share with anyone outside their own household. A small selection of bibles for visitors will be available in the foyer and any that have been used will be cleaned and put into quarantine after each service.

Supervision of Children

16. Those with children must keep them close at all times whilst on the premises and help them with hand washing/sanitisation. To assist with hygiene and social distancing children should use the chairs provided and not sit on the floor.

17. Whilst parents are encouraged to keep their children within the main hall as much as possible during the service it is recognised that there might be occasion when they need to take them out. The side hall will be available for short term use by up to 3 households at any time, socially distanced away from walkways. Children should remain close to parents. Communal toys/books will not be available.

Miscellaneous

18. Sunday School will be meeting in the mornings before Church in the side room. During this time, the walkway to the toilet will be kept clear but those not directly involved with the Sunday School are encouraged not to use this room whilst it is in progress.

19. Under current government guidance congregational singing (and raised voices) is not permitted. Instead, recordings of hymns will be played over the speaker system.

20. Meeting around the Lord's Table will resume when deemed appropriate by the church leadership and conducted in a way as to minimise risk.

21. A record will be maintained of all attendees for Track and Trace purposes. Visitors should be willing to provide contact details to one of the stewards on arrival and their information will be kept for 21 days and then securely disposed of. A row of seats will be reserved for the use of visiting families.



22. If you would like to give towards the Lord's work at HSC we would encourage you to continue using online methods of payment. The offertory box will be available, primarily for visitors and will be opened only by the treasurer or other nominated individual (taking necessary precautions).

Thank you in advance for your patience, understanding and cooperation in these arrangements. Please take them seriously. They will be kept under review and we look forward, God willing, to a time when these things will no longer apply, and we can meet without restrictions.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mike Gething or our Pastor on hydestchapel@gmail.com.

References:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-from-2-december>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-the-christmas-period>