



19 August 2020

Dear Church Family,

This letter brings good news: **we will be resuming public worship on Sundays from August 30th**. As expected, various safety measures will mean that it will not be quite what we were used to before coronavirus hit the UK! But, despite this, we are pleased to announce that we will be gathering together in person on Sunday mornings and hope that you will join us if it is safe for you to do so. There will be two services – one in the main church building at 10am and the other in the Ansell Centre at 11am. Details about these, how to book and what to expect are below (with items you may need to action in red!).

God bless,

Bryn

Revd Bryn Rickards & The Elders

Q&A's

Why are there two services?

Public health guidance is that fewer individuals in one place reduces the risk of transmitting coronavirus. Initially, government guidelines restricted numbers to 30 for public worship. Although this has been relaxed, we think it wiser to aim for two groups of up to 30 rather than try (with social distancing) to 'squeeze' 50-60 into one place. We also believe that having two services gives us an opportunity to tailor them to different needs and preferences.

So, what's the difference between the services?

Although the content of both services will be, more or less, the same, the format and approach will be different. The 10am service will be similar to what we would 'normally' do at a Sunday morning service, whilst the 11am service will be more like what we do when we have a Café Church service in the Ansell Centre. So, we'd suggest that the more 'interactive' 11am service is especially appropriate for families with children or young people to come to.

Will there be Junior Church?

We are not able at present to offer separate ministry to our youngsters. But the 11am service will include content and activities that will be relevant to them. Since we need to avoid 'shared resources', you might like to **bring along your own toys, books or instruments for your children** to use. Please can everyone at the 11am service also **bring your own pens, pencils and felt tips for the interactive activities**.

How long will each service last?

The length of time that people are gathered together in one place is directly related to the level of risk. So, we have shortened the services to 40-45 minutes.

Can I come to both services?

The short answer is, 'no!' There is little point since they will contain the same content. But, more importantly, coming to just one or the other will help us to keep numbers within our target. Obviously, there will be folks with specific duties who will need to be present at both services.

Do I need to book?

Yes, please! It will help us to assess how many to expect at the two services. **Contact Ric** via the church administrator email – admin@hadleighurc.org.uk – or the church mobile – 07579 044131. **Let him know which service you will be attending**. He will send you an acknowledgement. If you are having any problems getting through or have not had an acknowledgement from Ric, then let Bryn or Claire know (contact details below – you can leave a message on Bryn's answerphone if necessary).

Can I come if I haven't booked?

You can still come if you haven't booked, but if we've already reached capacity for that particular service you won't be able to join it.

Do I need to book every week?

No, unless you're changing which service you're coming to. Once you've booked for coming to the 10am or 11am service, we'll assume that you will be a 'regular' at that service. **If you aren't coming for a couple of weeks or wish to change your service time, then contact Ric**.

Do I need to wear a facemask?

Yes, unless you have a valid exemption. The government advice is clear: "face coverings are required by law to be worn in a number of public indoor settings *including places of worship*".

What other safety measures will be in place?

A set of other measures will also be in place to reduce risk of transmission: hand gel at entry and exit, socially distanced seating, enhanced cleaning regime, one-way entry and exit. You will find below a list of safety procedures. **Please read these and follow them**.

Will there be an offertory?

Yes, but to reduce transmission risk, bags will not be passed round as usual. There will be a plate at entry (and exit in case you forget on the way in!).

Will there be music and singing?

Congregational singing is not allowed. But we will have music being played – along with words for familiar hymns and songs so that we'll be able to follow 'in our heads/hearts'.

Will there be refreshments?

We can't serve refreshments, but you can bring a drink along with you. In fact, we'd advise those that might need water to bring a bottle with them. And for those coming to the 11am service, you might like to bring coffee and snacks with you.

Will toilets be available?

We are still encouraging folk not to use toilets unless absolutely necessary. But if needed, they can be used – in accordance with safety restrictions and cleaning instructions.

Will Sunday worship still be available online and via paper copies and CDs?

Yes. We're certainly not assuming that everybody will be able to return to public worship from Sunday 30th and want to make sure that the ministry started in lockdown continues. So, each week there will still be a version of the service posted online and those who currently receive a paper or CD copy will continue to get one *unless they have booked to come to one of the services*.

If I am on the rota, will I be expected to fulfil that ministry at both services?

No, although we hope many will be able to. A rota for different 'jobs' is currently being drawn up and we'll be in touch with you about whether you are happy and able to do that job and to what extent.

Will mid-week services and fellowship groups continue?

Yes! Mid-week services will continue on Wednesdays at 10:30am, although they will gradually shift back to something more like 'Pause for Prayer'. Fellowship groups will continue (weather permitting!) as these are still a vital way for us to connect at a more personal level.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch:

Bryn – Tel: 829197 – Email: minister@hadleighurc.org.uk – Text: 07510 311900

Claire – Tel: 822850 – Email: clairemcoster@yahoo.co.uk

HURC SAFETY PROCEDURES FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

(10AM SERVICE)

For everyone's safety, here are instructions for people wishing to come to the Church for Sunday Worship for the 10 o'clock service:

- Wash your hands before you leave home
- Wear a face covering to keep other people and you safe (unless you are a child under 11 or you have a medically valid exemption)
- If there are a number of people wishing to enter at the same time, please form a queue using the 2m markings on the ground
- As far as possible, maintain a 2m distance between yourself and others at all times (unless they are from your household or bubble)
- In the vestibule, use the hand gel to sanitise your hands
- Enter the Church shown by the steward on duty and follow the directions, being careful to observe the 'one-way' system
- Use one of the chairs set out in the middle of the Church (do not take one from the sides). If you have come with someone from your family or 'bubble' choose one of the 'double chairs'. If there are more than two of you and you wish to sit together, please use the gallery.
- If you wish to use a Bible, please bring your own from home
- When songs are being played, please refrain from singing
- When worship is over, leave by the Community Room door and sanitise your hands before you leave the building

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

Do not enter the building if you feel unwell or have any of the symptoms of COVID-19

(high temperature, new continuous cough or loss or change to your sense of smell or taste)

Toilets will be restricted – please only use if absolutely necessary

**If you have any questions or concerns,
please don't hesitate to contact Bryn (829197) or any of the Elders**

A full copy of our Risk Assessment of reopening can be accessed on the HURC website
(please note that this is an evolving document)

HURC SAFETY PROCEDURES FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

(11AM SERVICE)

For everyone's safety, here are instructions for people wishing to come to the Church for Sunday Worship for the 11 o'clock service in the Ansell Centre:

- Wash your hands before you leave home
- Wear a face covering to keep other people and you safe (unless you are a child under 11 or you have a medically valid exemption)
- If there are a number of people wishing to enter at the same time, please form a queue using the 2m markings on the ground
- As far as possible, maintain a 2m distance between yourself and others at all times (unless they are from your household or bubble)
- Inside the doors, use the hand gel to sanitise your hands
- Enter the hall as indicated by the steward on duty
- Use the chairs set out at the tables (ask a steward if you need any extra chairs from the sides). If you have come with someone from your family or 'bubble', choose the table with the appropriate number of chairs.
- If you wish to use a Bible, please bring your own from home
- If possible, please bring a pencil case with some resources for the worship activities (e.g. pens, pencils, scissors, gluestick)
- When songs are being played, please refrain from singing
- Please do not access the kitchen
- When worship is over, sanitise your hands before leaving the building (leave by the main doors).

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