

Northallerton Evangelical Church

Guidance for those attending Public Worship on Sundays during Covid-19 pandemic

Version 4 - 28th July 2020

On 19 July public worship services resumed at Northallerton Evangelical Church. This will be kept under review and will depend on there being no worsening of the Covid-19 situation. For the time being we will have to observe various restrictions and things will feel very different from normal.

Please attend only if you are happy to comply with the restrictions as set out.

Government advice is still that

“certain groups of people may be at increased risk of severe disease from COVID-19, including people who are aged 70 or older, regardless of medical conditions. Individuals who fall within this group are advised to stay at home as much as possible and, if they do go out, to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside of their household.”

However the government has not prohibited people in this group from attending a service of worship. You have to make your own judgement regarding the risks and act accordingly.

We are taking all possible steps to minimise the risks by observing a strict 2m social distancing policy, using hand sanitiser, wearing face coverings and keeping the service to 45 minutes. A risk assessment has been carried out and is displayed on the notice board in the entrance hall (on the church website the Risk Assessment can be viewed by clicking the link at the end of this document). Where government guidelines have not been clear or are ambiguous we have erred on the side of caution.

A) Things to consider prior to coming to a church service

- If you have any symptoms of the virus (high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste) - PLEASE DO NOT COME.
- PLEASE DO NOT COME if you are a *shielded person*, *clinically vulnerable* or *extremely vulnerable*.
- If you are aged over 70, please consider the government advice outlined above and attend only if you are comfortable with the steps we are taking regarding safety.
- In order to keep the toilets as safe as possible we will allow only one person (or bubble) to be upstairs at any one time and the toilet will be cleaned after each use. This will mean that there will be limited access to the toilet and potentially significant delays. We would therefore encourage those attending to go to the toilet at home prior to leaving for the service and, as far as possible, not to use the toilet whilst at church.
- Social Distancing (the 2m rule) reminders will be on display in the building.
- For the present everyone should wear a face covering at all times whilst in the building. If you are unable to wear a face mask for medical reasons please consider using a scarf or a face visor.
- To restrict the chances of spreading the virus, services will be limited to a maximum of 45 minutes.
- Please let us have contact details for NHS Test & Trace purposes.
On each Sunday we will simply keep a register of those attending.
If someone attending a service tests positive for Covid-19, NHS Test & Trace may request us to provide contact details of others who attended the same service.
Visitors will be asked to provide their contact details using the yellow form.

B) Before the Service

- Please bring your own Bible
- Please bring a face covering.
- If you might want a drink of water, please bring your own bottle of water.
- Maximum ventilation will be used, so please bear in mind that if it is a cold day you may wish to wear something warm.

C) Arriving at the Church

- There will be hand sanitiser by the door as you arrive, please use it (or your own) when entering the building.
- Visitors will be asked to provide their contact details using the yellow form.
- Coats should **not** be left in the entrance hall but should be taken with you to your seat.
- We are observing the 2 metre social distancing rule, but those from the same household can sit together.
- Please wear a face covering and wear it all the time you are in the building (a confined space)
- Please do not stop for conversations in the entrance hall but proceed to your seat or to a seat as directed.

D) Once seated and during the Service

- Visitors should complete their yellow contact form for the NHS Test & Trace and leave it on their seat after the service. These contact details will be kept for 21 days and then destroyed. The green card contains the church contact details and visitors should take this card with them when they leave the service in case they need to provide this information to NHS Test & Trace.
- There is a hymn book by each chair, but remember that we are not permitted to sing. If a hymn is announced please remain seated and follow through the words silently and prayerfully and with understanding as it is played.

E) After the Service

- Please leave your hymn book by your chair
- The kitchen is out of use for the time being. After the service there will not be the usual time for fellowship over a cup of tea.
- To avoid congestion we will be directed when to leave, starting with those nearest to the door. Please wear your face covering when leaving and leave promptly - do not stop for conversations until you are outside the building.
- Please remember to keep to the 2m rule even after leaving the building.

F) NHS Test & Trace

- If you develop symptoms of Covid-19 you must apply for a test. If it comes back positive NHS Test and Trace will phone you to find out who you have been in contact with. The church contact details are on the green card provided (see below).
- NHS Test & Trace may require the church to provide contact details of those attending a particular service.

The Green Card:

If you develop symptoms of Covid-19 please let the church know by phoning or texting 07914 563 052

Northallerton Evangelical Church

Please take this green card with you when you leave

If you develop symptoms of Covid-19 within 14 days of attending a church service

You may need the following information for NHS Test & Trace

Name of Church: ***Northallerton Evangelical Church***
Contact Tel No: ***07914 563 052***

It would be helpful if, in addition, you would let the church know by phoning or texting the number above - thank you.

*Please pray that the Lord will bless us as we seek to worship Him.
Please pray especially for all those who come and preach in coming weeks.*

These arrangements will be kept under review

End of Guidance Sheet