



WALSWORTH ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

CORONAVIRUS - PROTOCOL FOR SERVICES OF WORSHIP

This version is revised in July 2021 in the light of Government relaxation of mandatory rules, scientific advice and the guidance of the Baptist Union.

1] Outside the building

When arriving at the church people are encouraged to maintain appropriate distancing from others arriving and attempting to enter the building.

We continue to encourage you to wear a face-covering in the building; whether it is put on at home or outside the building is personal choice.

~~Please follow any guidance about which ways in are available.~~

2] Entering the building

~~Entry will be via the welcome area, which offers step-free access to the church.~~

~~It helps to avoid touching handrails and entry doors wherever possible, unless needed for support.~~

~~Except for poor weather doors will be pinned held open (weather and noise permitting).~~

If there are several people entering the building at once, you may be asked to wait outside to avoid excess crowding within the Welcome Area. It is better to greet or socialise outside ~~the building~~.

Everyone entering the building will be asked to ~~agree to have their~~ record their name and contact information on the Covid-19 monitoring lists, required for NHS Test & Trace (full details available here).

~~Alternatively, individuals can sign-in by scanning the QR code poster with the NHS Covid-19 app, available on Google Play Store and Apple Store. attendance recorded. This will be maintained in accordance with the guidelines should 'track and trace' action be needed; it is voluntary.~~

Face-coverings are ~~encouraged requested~~ inside the building, unless an exemption applies.

Use hand sanitiser upon entry located on the table at the entry point(s).

People are encouraged to respect ~~the personal space of others~~ others who may be social distancing; please follow any guidance given by stewards regarding directions.

3] Going into the Sanctuary

Please ~~observe respect polite social~~ distancing through the doors and corridors into the Sanctuary. Be particularly aware of people who are older, less mobile or uncertain.

Avoid touching doors or rails unless necessary. These will have been cleaned but minimising touch will help others.

~~Given the biggest concern from membership is social distancing*, 'Sit by a Smile' seating will continue in the Sanctuary, although the number of seats available has been increased.~~ Please follow guidance by

signage or ~~any~~ stewards, who may point out appropriate seating. People may choose where to sit but are encouraged to respect the needs of others who may ~~not wish to be 'crowded'~~ still be social distancing.

~~Avoid lingering in proximity to others, and prolonged standing in the aisle, as you go to your place seat.~~

Avoid direct "face-to-face" conversations with others apart from essentials. The pew seats will encourage people to face forward. ~~It will help if you can please~~ save longer conversations for outside the building.

Communion will take place at appropriate times. People should collect a pre-prepared Communion pot from the tray on the table in the Richard Johnson room on the way into the church. This pot should be left in the pew at the end of the service to be collected and disposed of in a Covid-secure way.

Books, Bibles and other shared communal objects are not yet available. People are encouraged to bring their own bibles, but not to share them with others.

4] During worship

Doors into, and inside, the Sanctuary, RJ room, and Welcome Area will remain pinned open to improve air circulation (weather and noise permitting).

Singing will follow the best advice available, which is currently to do so quietly and with a mask in place.

People should remain in their pew during the service, unless taking a specific part which requires movement.

The wearing of masks is encouraged at all times, including singing, out of respect to others.

Anyone reading or leading part of the service should bring their own bible/resource to use - unless informed beforehand by the preacher/leader that a translation/resource would be provided.

Hand sanitiser will be available where marked.

People may bring their own drink (water, tea/coffee), provided it is covered (bottle, thermos cup, etc.) and that it is not shared with others. The kitchen is off-limits during the service, even for water.

5] Toilets

The toilets will be open but appropriate hygiene must be observed:

- Only one person at a time in each toilet area
- Outer doors will be propped open to avoid need to touch them
- Please use soap after using the toilet
- One-use paper towels or sensor-style hand-dryers are to be used; used towels can be disposed of in the bin provided.

6] After the worship service

People should leave the Sanctuary as directed by signage or by stewards. Weather permitting, doors will be open already. Please avoid lingering in exit doorways or corridors - there is space outside the welcome area to speak to others.

People are encouraged to use sanitiser on departure.

Weather permitting, hold conversation on the church lawn and not the driveway - be aware of vehicle movements.

Maintain appropriate distancing even after leaving the Sanctuary. Avoid "face-to-face" conversations and talking that goes on for too long, even outside.

The kitchen is open, but not available for general use. One or two approved individual(s) may serve tea/coffee or water from the kitchen hatch into the welcome area after the morning service. Once served, please move away from the hatch to enable others to get a drink safely. Mugs should then be left on the designated table before being washed, dried, and put away again by the individual on duty.

People may bring their own drink (water), provided it is covered (bottle, re-usable cup, i.e. no open mugs or glasses) and that it is not shared with others.

Please avoid sharing anything such as books, cards, flowers, gifts etc. at the end of the service. The Traidcraft stall may continue to operate under COVID-19 restrictions, offering pre-order and collection, but at this time there will be no direct sales.

* results of 2020 Online Survey & 2021 Church Meeting Survey