



Methodist Church COVID-19 Guidance

Opening-up our buildings is a part of our outreach and I pray that God will keep us safe and help us begin to restore those aspects of our common ministry and mission which are still bound by COVID-19 restrictions which may change at any time.

Safety is paramount and Connexional and HM Government guidance must be followed assiduously. The latest guidance is to be found as follows:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus/>

Update 22nd September 2020

The Methodist Church is yet to fully establish the impact of recent Government announcements on the life of the Church and of Tuesday's speech from the Prime Minister. Connexion will be reviewing their guidelines to reflect any changes that will affect Churches and their associated community activities. More detailed guidance will be made available shortly.

The key points are:

- Education establishments to remain open at present (this is assumed to include pre-schools subject to details);
- Community & church cafés should only operate a table service and close by 10.00pm;
- All staff and customers in community and church cafes, charity shops, etc will now have to wear a face covering (unless seated for eating/drinking where relevant);
- In many sectors, which might include projects run through churches, working to Covid-secure guidelines will now be a legal obligation;
- 'Stand-alone' Baptisms are permissible but restricted by the 'Rule of Six'. If the Baptism is taking place as part of a regular act of worship, the usual requirements for public worship apply;
- Weddings will only be able to have a maximum of 15 people (down from 30) attending the service and reception afterwards;
- Funeral numbers allowed to attend remain unchanged at 30 people;
- Currently new shielding measures for those who are more vulnerable remain unchanged at present;
- From September 28, standalone life events will be subject to the "rule of six" limits.
- Places of Worship are allowed to remain open

The following guides have been updated today Wednesday:

- Guide to Using Your Worship Space
- Guide for Other Community Users
- Guide for Children's, Young Person's and Intergenerational Activities & Worship
- Guide for Food and Drink in Worship and Non-Worship Settings

And can be found here:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/property/coronavirus-guidance-for-property/>

There is a dedicated page on the CPO website for those who wish to purchase PPE with a 15% discount:
www.cpo.org.uk/methodistppe