Public worship was resumed at the Tabernacle on Sunday 5th July to the great joy of all who attended. We have now had two Sundays to refine our system for safely accommodating attenders with social distancing. Providing there is no worsening of the Coronavirus situation in London, we hope to welcome back those over 70 (who are not shielding) on Sunday 19th July, and possibly to reconvene a form of Morning School for the young on 26th July.

Public worship has also resumed for Wednesday night Bible Studies, but not for church prayer meetings which continue online for members and adherents, as for Sunday School and Bible Class services. Please consult the list of arrangements and precautions below:

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.
2. Please do not come (before 19th July) if you are over 70. And do not come if you are a shielded person.
3. Do not bring children under 12 (there will be no facilities for the under 12s before 26th July at the earliest). 12 and 13 year olds should accompany their parent(s).
4. Full building cleaning will be carried out prior to Sunday services.
5. Full sanitisising of all surfaces including doors, pews, chairs etc. will take place prior to services.
6. Limited and managed entry points using centre doors from portico only, except for those needing the chairlift who use the north side doors and Deaf friends who should use the Sunday School entrance. Row by row seating plan employed. 2-meter spacing will be marked on the portico for those waiting to enter.
7. To avoid crowding, attendees should not stop for conversations in entrance or corridor areas, and should proceed as soon as possible into the service.
8. No coats to be left in corridors but taken into the service.
9. Departure to be phased via multiple exits to ensure no crowding of entrance areas.
10. 1-meter social distancing to be employed in seating. Household members may sit close to each other. (This is under the government’s 1-meter-with-mitigations rule.) Maximum fresh air made available by use of ventilation and/or aircon.
11. Hand sanitisation administered on entry with extra sanitiser available through the building.

12. The wearing of face coverings is required in the sanctuary and elsewhere on the premises, including portico and sidewalks, at all times, out of consideration for all attenders.

13. Attendees must complete contact details slip for the NHS Test & Trace scheme. These details will be kept securely in the Tabernacle for 21 days and destroyed. They will only be submitted to Test & Trace if a Coronavirus case occurs.

14. No singing. Congregation to remain seated while recorded hymns are played. Hymn sheets will be provided, to be taken home as a hygiene requirement. Church Bibles and hymnbooks will not be used for hygiene reasons.

15. Non-essential areas of the building, including the kitchens, are out of use for all attendees.

16. All toilet facilities throughout the building to be available to reduce pressure on sanctuary toilets. The toilet corridors at sanctuary level will be managed to avoid crowding.

17. Social distancing reminders will be on display throughout the building.

18. Freewill offerings on Sundays may be made on exit into receptacles provided. These will not be counted for at least 72 hours.

19. With the exception of BSL, there will be no interpretation in the Tabernacle from 5th July, and so no use of headsets. Interpreting will be routed through website and Zoom channels.

20. Deaf friends to be in the Boys’ Bible Class Room which has an independent ventilation system.

21. Services will be limited to 60 minutes duration.

22. The Tabernacle being adjacent to a transport hub has no issues with public access. The college car park will be open and the shopping centre car park available to designated users.

***

These arrangements will be kept under review. It may be that we will have to suspend services again in the event of a worsening of the Coronavirus situation.

We pray for the Lord’s blessing on all who worship Him, both in the Tabernacle and in their own homes through livestream and interpreting, and we remember in prayer all our wider online congregation throughout our land and the world.