

Metropolitan Tabernacle, London

Public Worship at the Tabernacle on Sundays and Wednesdays

(Monday Prayer Meetings will continue online for the time being)

Public worship was resumed at the Tabernacle on Sunday 5th July to the great joy of all who attended. We have now had several Sundays to refine our system for safely accommodating attenders with social distancing. Providing there is no worsening of the Coronavirus situation in London, we are now able to welcome back those over 70 and those who were previously shielding, and to reconvene Morning School for the young.

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. From 2nd August over 70s and shielded people are welcome to attend at their own risk.
3. Morning School is available for children under 12 on Sunday mornings. Children aged 12 and above should accompany their parent(s). Crèche facilities are available for children of 18 months and over on Sunday mornings, and facilities for mothers and babies will be open.
4. Full building cleaning will be carried out prior to Sunday services.
5. Full sanitising 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 Morning School children who should use the Sunday School entrance on Sunday mornings. 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 will be asked to complete a form with their name and telephone number 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. Interpreting is available at the Tabernacle. Radio receivers are sanitised and people are asked to bring their own headphones.
20. Services will be limited to 60 minutes duration.
21. The Tabernacle being adjacent to a transport hub has no issues with public access. The college car park will be open.

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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.