

Rev. Christine Legge
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Dear Silverdale Friends,

7 August 2020

If you are considering returning to worship it is **VITALLY IMPORTANT** that you read and understand the following:

The Leadership Team have met to prepare for the Re-opening of Silverdale Methodist Church and are preparing a Risk Assessment and an Action Plan which will be presented to an Extra-ordinary Church Council to take place on Tuesday 25 August at 7pm to enable the Church Sunday worship. We hope to re-commence Worship on Sunday 6 September at 11a.m.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions there will be quite a lot of changes, so please don't expect everything to be back to normal, sadly it won't be so for sometime. This is the reason for this letter, to give you some idea of what is in place and what will happen if, and when, you choose to return to worship at Silverdale.

All of the following are in place in order to keep others and ourselves safe and to abide by the current Government/Methodist Church guidelines:

Before coming to church - Current advice remains that those over 70 or in a vulnerable category need to stay at home as much as possible. Please do not come if you are feeling unwell in any way.

1. Due to the size of the church a maximum of 20 worshippers will be able to attend on any Sunday. As a result a booking system will be put in place - details of who to contact, and when, will be distributed later. At the time of booking you will be asked several questions about Covid-19 symptoms, whether you have had contact with anyone who has the Virus, or if you have returned from foreign travel. Also your contact details must be given so that they can be provided to Track and Trace if requested. When you book to attend worship you are giving permission for your details (name and telephone number) to be recorded for this purpose. Record sheets will be destroyed after 14 days.
2. In accordance with Government guidelines we are creating a one-way-system to enter and exit the church. Therefore, please enter via the Front Door (Earl Street) after 10.45am, use the hand sanitizer and then find your allocated seat/s. Exiting will be via the Fire door from the Fellowship Room, where the Offering Plate will be located and the Newsletter available for taking with you.
3. Those who receive/give lifts to get to worship – Government Guidance is as follows: “You should try not to share a vehicle with those outside your household or support bubble”. Options might include a lift by a ‘social bubble’ member or using a taxi. You should wear a facemask in the car when you travel.
4. Upon arrival at the Church you will be asked if you have any Covid-19 symptoms, or have been asked to isolate. There is hand-sanitizer available – please use it as you enter and follow the arrows and information displayed. Face masks are now compulsory (unless there is a medical reason).
5. Both partitions will be open in order to ensure good ventilation and to provide maximum space for worshippers.
6. Unfortunately there must be no physical contact – apart from an elbow-nudge, no hugs, kisses or handshakes – as mentioned above, this is to protect ourselves and others from unwittingly spreading the virus.

7. Seating Seating will be arranged appropriate to the bookings received. This has been determined in order to ensure a 2m space between people on all sides. Chairs must not be moved.
8. Toilets Only the Disabled Toilet will be available for use – one person at a time. Please shut the door as you enter, use the Anti-bacterial wipe on areas touched (door handles, flush, toilet seat, taps etc) and leave the door open as you leave.

Church Service – The service will be 40-45 minutes in length.

Currently no congregational singing is permitted, but we will still have worship and music!

1. The service will begin at 11am with the Opening Worship being led by the Worship Leader who will then hand over to the Minister/Local Preacher etc.
2. Multi-media will be used, as usual, for hymns and aspects of shared worship.
3. The collection plate will be available by the door for your offerings either as you leave. If you have been putting your offerings aside during Lock-down please do bring them with you. If you would like to give your offering by Standing Order please speak to Julie who will be happy to help.
4. Young people are welcome to accompany their parents/carers but they will need to be supervised by them.
5. There will be no refreshments before, during or after the service.
6. Please always keep in mind the need for 'Social Distancing' at 2 metres at all times.

At the end of the service

7. When the blessing has been given and the music played, people will be invited to leave by a Steward to ensure social distancing is kept.

My apologies that this is rather a long letter, but it is very important that we all continue to be aware of the dangers of Covid-19 and do all we can to avoid spreading it. If you have any queries about the content of this letter or issues surrounding it please do not hesitate to get in touch with me tel. 631918.

The Circuit service material will continue to be available for those unable to attend worship (and will continue to be emailed or posted to you) in order that you can continue to share with the Silverdale fellowship as you are able.

To those of you who are hoping to return to Worship, I look forward to seeing you on 6 September or thereafter, details of how to book will be sent out to you around the end of August.

Every blessing, *Rev. Christine*