

Fairland United Reformed Church - July 2020

Dear friends,

The elders and minister would like to let you know the good news that our church building will be reopening on Sunday 30th August at 10.30am for morning worship.

We are sorry that it has taken a while after the government restrictions were eased to open our doors once more, but we have been working hard to ensure that everyone who comes to worship can do so as safely as possible. This has involved hours of careful consideration and planning as well as the on-going adjustments to seating and the installation of extra hygiene equipment. We have also been taking careful consideration of both government regulations and the thorough guidance from the United Reformed Church. We would like to let you know about two particular pieces of guidance. First is that the building needs to be well ventilated and so doors will need to be left open. So please be aware that it may be a bit cool and that you will need to take extra care of your valuables. Second, if you wish to follow any of the Bible readings, then please bring your own Bible and take it home with you afterwards, as pew Bibles are unavailable at present.

To meet with current guidance if you wish to come to the church building we ask that you observe the following protocols:

1. If you are feeling unwell or think you may have the symptoms of Covid 19, please stay at home.
2. If you are isolating, as advised by the government or a health professional, please stay at home.
3. It is mandatory to wear a face mask and please make use of the hand sanitiser provided.
4. There will be a 'one-way' system in the sanctuary, please observe this and there will be stewards available to assist.
5. Whilst at the church please respect social distancing of two metres if you possibly can and only use the seats provided that have been set out to maintain distancing in everyone's interest.
6. The government rules are quite clear that there must not be any singing, handshakes or hugging. It may be against our instinct not to do these things that are a normal part of getting together but please refrain as these are unusual times.
7. At the end of worship please leave using the one-way system and don't remain in the building for a chat. This could be done outside whilst keeping a safe distance.

Worship will be rather different from what we are used to, especially as we are not allowed to sing and services will be shortened to improve everyone's safety. We would also like to let you know that worship will only take place every other week. However, John will be recording his services and they will be available on-line in the way we have been used to in recent months as a resource for those who are unable to or do not feel they wish to attend in person.

The reasoning behind all these changes is to keep everyone as safe as is reasonable as we emerge from the worst of the pandemic. Accordingly, we recommend that you carefully consider the personal risk assessment on the following page that will help you decide if it is safe for you to come into the church building. It is based on one produced by the BMA and recommended by the URC.

One final request: as the outgoings of the church have continued and the lettings income has stopped we have been relying on your generous giving to keep going and will continue to do so for many months. Part of the advice we have received is that handling of cash donations be kept to a minimum, so to help this situation it would be good to both continue to give but try to do so through your bank account if at all possible.

We do hope you will be able to attend on August 30th but nobody should feel pressure to do so if they decide it is not right for them to join us at this present time. We pray that God will guide us to make the right choices as we step into this new phase of our church life.

With all good wishes,

John and the Elders

Guidance on using the personal risk assessment chart:

Please circle any score in the right-hand column that applies to you and then add them together to make a total score for you. Then refer to the following for guidance:

A score of 1 or 2 indicates a lower risk, but you should still be following the guidance for staying safe.

A score of 3 – 5 suggests a greater risk: consider ways of reducing risk by taking additional precautions or avoiding some activities.

A score of 6 or higher suggests a high risk and indicates that you should continue to participate in church life from your home.

Consideration	Factor	Risk score
Age	50-59	1
	60-69	2
	70-79	4
	80 and over	6
Gender at birth	Male	1
Ethnicity	Caucasian (white)	0
	Black African descent	2
	Indian Asian descent	1
	Filipino descent	1
	Other (inc mixed race)	1
Diabetes	Type 1 & 2	1
	With complications	2
Body mass	If overweight with a body mass of 35 or more (you can look up how to calculate this on the NHS website)	1
Heart problems	Angina, previous heart attack, stroke	1
	Heart failure	2
Lung problems	Asthma	1
	Non asthma chronic pulmonary disease	2
	Either of the above requiring oral corticosteroids in the last year	1
Cancer	Active	3
	In remission	1
Rheumatological conditions	Active treated conditions	2
Immuno-suppressant therapies	Any indication	2
	Total score	