

# SHOREHAM-BY-SEA METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE

**Minister: Rev Ian Couchman**

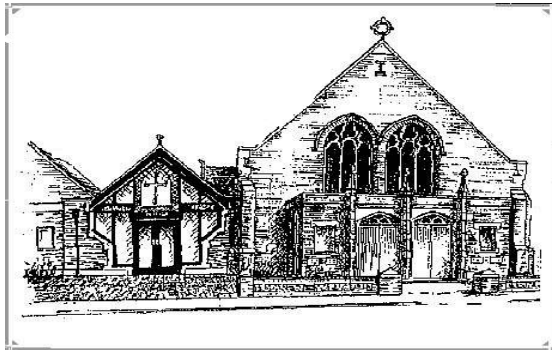
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A FAIRTRADE CHURCH

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We are pleased to announce that from Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021, Shoreham Methodist Church will return to holding its regular 10:30am morning worship each Sunday.

This leaflet will give you information about how worship will work at the Church in a COVID secure manner.

*The final decision about whether to come to church or not must be yours, there is no need to feel obliged to attend. Always adhere to current government advice.*

## What can I expect when I arrive?

- The doors will be open from 10am, please do not arrive before then.
- For the Government's contact and trace purposes, we are required to record the names and contact details of everyone who enters the church premises. On arrival, the welcome stewards will take your name and phone number. The record will be kept securely for 21 days and then destroyed.
- The Government requires that everyone over the age of 11 wears face coverings in enclosed public spaces including churches to help reduce the spread of the COVID virus. So, we will not be able to let you in without one, unless you have one of the listed medical conditions that prevent you from wearing one. We have a few disposable ones in case you have forgotten yours.
- **Please do not attend if you or a member of your household is displaying symptoms of COVID.**
- Hand gel dispensers are located in the entrance porch. Please use the hand gel provided as you enter.
- While you are in church, please maintain social distance from others.
- When you enter the church, it will look different mainly because we have limited the number of chairs available to sit on. A member of the Welcome Stewarding team will direct you to an empty seat. Please make sure there are at least 2 empty chairs distance between you and the next person. We have put crosses on seats that should remain empty. Families in the same support bubble may of course sit together.

## **What will the service be like?**

- The service will be led by a preacher who may or may not wear a mask but will be at an appropriate social distance from the congregation.
- The service will be shorter between 30 and 45 minutes long.
- There will be no singing of hymns, but we will play hymns over the sound system and via the screen.
- We will not be providing any hymn books or service books or news sheets. You may of course bring your own Bible if you wish.
- Holy Communion, when held, will be brought to you by the minister. Please take a wafer and when everyone has received it we will eat it together. This will be the same for the wine too.

## **Is there a collection?**

There will be a plate at the rear of the church and your offering will be gratefully received as you leave. The offering will be securely stored for 72 hrs before counting and banking.

## **Do I have to book?**

Currently, there is no need to book a place to come to worship. We can accommodate about 21 individuals or family units and we are hoping that is enough without resorting to a booking system. We will keep an eye on the situation but bear in mind that in the event that we do suddenly get a lot of people coming, we may have to turn some away.

## **What about the toilets?**

The disabled toilet in the annexe will be available. Please wait in the annexe at social distance of 2 metres.

## **Are we having coffee afterwards?**

Sadly, there will be no refreshments served after the service. You may wish to bring a bottle of water with you.

## **What happens after the service?**

- We ask that you leave the building as soon as possible after the service has finished. The stewards will guide you out.
- Please make use of all available exits at the back and please remember to social distance. We ask that socialising with others in the congregation is done outside.
- Hand sanitizer will be available, and we suggest you make use of it as you leave.
- Collection plates will also be available as you leave to leave your offering. Thank you.

**If you become unwell with COVID-19 symptoms or test positive within 7 days of visiting the church, please inform Peter Bedwell on 01273 461422 ([pjb19@btinternet.com](mailto:pjb19@btinternet.com))**

If you have any questions, please contact  
Julian Batstone (01273 592218)  
or Peter Bedwell (01273 461422)