

Worshipping face to face with one another in love

Felpham

Methodist Church

Discovering God • Welcoming all • Serving the community

Version 1 | 6/9/20

“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.”

1 John 4:7

As we continue our journey of emergence from lockdown, we prepare to begin face to face worship in the FMC building.

Getting to this point has been no simple task. There have been huge amounts of guidance and legislation to work through and I’m grateful to all those who have been part of that process, discerning how we can implement the necessary measures in the building – to make activities such as face to face worship possible.

As part of the implementation, there are various changes we’ve made to the layout in the building as well as how we will gather together. This includes various commitments we will need from one another. Further below is a summary of these things which will enable us to all work together to create a safer space.

Preparing for worship

For those of you who plan to attend face to face worship at FMC, be aware that we are in many ways not *returning* to worship. It will not be as it used to be.

The restrictions and measures we have to implement mean that many aspects of worship, including interaction, movement, singing and participation all have to happen differently. We will be wearing face coverings and so facial responses will ‘masked’.

We are *emerging* into a new way of worshiping. A period of learning & experimenting. Over the coming weeks we hope to explore a variety of ideas of how we can worship creatively within the measures.



A Christian community of Love & Safety

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live¹



One of the most important things we need to do as we emerge into this next phase of worshipping God together face to face, is think of one another. Some of us are very excited about being able to gather for face-to-face worship again, others are very anxious. Let us love one another by being aware of the diversity among us and all doing our part to keep ourselves and each other safe.

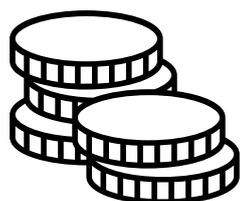
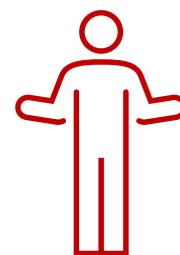
We can all do our part to build a house where all can safely live by all following the guidance below. We hope that this will give some sense of reassurance if you are particularly anxious.



Serving

To make face to face worship possible requires people to serve in various roles, including welcoming, marshalling and directing people, cleaning before, during or after events and overseeing track and trace data collection.

If you feel able to offer to help in any way, please contact Lynne James/a church steward. When offering to serve, please be mindful of your own vulnerability to COVID-19 and current government guidance relevant for you, including your health, age, ethnicity. No-one should feel any pressure to serve in ways beyond that which feels safe.



Financial Giving

Due to guidance about handling money and risk of cross-contamination, we continue to encourage direct giving via standing order. For details of how to do this please speak to Michael Taylor.

We know this is not possible for all people, so an offering plate will be in the welcome room. We ask you place money in this as you enter for worship.

Feedback

If you have questions or constructive feedback, please do share with stewards or leadership team (or Rev Dan). This will help us reflect on what we do and make positive developments for the future.

¹ From Singing the Faith 409, Author – Marty Haugen

What do I need to know? *Guidance for Face to Face worship at FMC*

General Guidance



Please do not attend face to face worship if you have any symptoms of Covid-19 (high temperature, new or continuous cough, change/loss to sense of taste/smell)

At all times please maintain 2m social distance between households

Wear a face covering while in the building (unless medically or otherwise exempt)

Additional guidance may be given by stewards/preacher as appropriate.

Doors & windows will be open for ventilation, on a cool day you may want an extra layer

Arrival



The building will open for the congregation from 10:15.

Please do not arrive before that time.

On arrival please wait in cars/queue outside the entry doors, 2m distance from one another

A steward will be outside to welcome you and let you know when to enter the building.

Entering



Please follow the one-way system (marked with arrows)

Please use the hand sanitiser provided in the welcome room (note that the sanitiser here is automatic)

As you enter, a steward will take your contact details for our track and trace record

The offering plate will be in the welcome room.

Stewards will direct you to a seat. Once seated please remain there until the service ends.

You will need to sit with your household/bubble & keep conversation with others to a minimum.

We will initially have a capacity set at 30 people in the worship space. We will also have a video feed to the small hall where we can take an additional 15 people.

Worship



Worship services will last 30-45 minutes.

We encourage you to bring your own bible with you.

There will be no singing, notice sheets or handouts.

If you have prayer requests, we will sometimes include open prayer, or prayer needs can be communicated to stewards or preacher in advance.

Children and young people will need to remain in household groups throughout.

Communion



When communion is celebrated every effort will be made to ensure it is celebrated as safely and hygienically as possible.

Communion will be shared in one kind only (bread).

Communion will be brought to you in your seats.

On the day Rev Dan will talk through in more detail what will happen.

After Worship



Please wait until a steward indicates it is safe for you to leave.

Please follow the one-way system to the designated exits.

Note that there will be no refreshments served at the moment.

Additional



Toilets can be accessed via the coffee hub. Please follow instructions of the stewards on the day.



In the first phase we ask that we all work together to keep movement around the rest of the building to a minimum. This reduces the amount of cleaning that needs undertaking by our volunteers.

And Finally...

As we learn from the first few weeks, or as guidance and legislation changes, we will update our planning and this guidance

If you are planning to attend face to face worship in the coming weeks, we look forward to seeing you soon.

If you are unsure, have decided not to attend for the moment, or can't attend, please know that you continue to be in the thoughts and prayers of others.

Gathered or Scattered, we are united by Christ
Close to one another or far away, we are bound together by God's Spirit
Excited or anxious, we are held in the arms of God's love,
We are community, God's community, we are FMC.

Worship on the phone will continue through September, Sunday's at 10am

How to connect to Worship on the Phone

1. Call **0333 011 0616** from a mobile or landline.
2. Enter unique PIN: **9805080** and press **#** (it will ask for £, but press #)
3. You will be invited to speak your name, then press **#** again.
4. You will be connected to the call.