

Procedures and requirements for attending

In-Person worship at Witham URC

Important: If you have any of the symptoms of the Coronavirus then you should not attend worship, you should stay home and arrange a test for the coronavirus.

Symptoms include: A high temperature, fever or chills, sore throat, new and continuous dry cough, muscle aches and sense of fatigue, a new loss of smell or taste.

To minimise risk of transmission of coronavirus all the sanctuary windows will be opened along with both sanctuary doors. It will not be possible to close them, no matter how drafty!

Booking

Capacity is limited to around 30 people (the precise number depends on how many people attending are in the same "bubble").

For the first few services we propose to contact and give priority to those people who lack access to the internet and who since lockdown have been unable to access the online services. Thereafter individuals wanting to attend will need to book a place. We will let you know how to do this.

If we are over-subscribed, those who were unsuccessful will be given priority to subsequent services.

If you need a specific style of chair, please let us know when reserving your place.

We will not be operating the minibus (at least not initially), once we have some experience of operating 'In Person' worship under these new arrangements we will consider if and how we might operate the minibus.

Before Entry

If you have not received confirmation that you have a place, then please do not attend the service.

Make sure that you bring with you a mask or face covering, you will be required to wear a mask all the time you are inside the church. No refreshments (including water) will be provided, so if you think you may need a drink please bring a bottle of water with you.

The doors will only open at 10:15am (for a 10:30am service). Please do not arrive sooner and if others have arrived ahead of you please observe a 2 metre social distance.

Both front doors of the sanctuary will be open for ventilation; if indicated, please **ONLY enter via the indicated and staffed door**. You will be asked to confirm that you do not have any symptom of the coronavirus (see above).

On Entry

Hand sanitisers will be available in both door lobbies, please use it to cleanse your hands before moving beyond the door lobby. There will also be a jar to receive any cash offering you may wish to give. Additional hand sanitisers will be available on the window ledges and also the Communion table.

Please take your seat, filling from the front backwards. Once you have taken your seat please do not get up and move about. Please remain seated at all times. **DO NOT MOVE TO A DIFFERENT SEAT!**

Please do not talk to your friends – raised voices risks transmitting the coronavirus.

PLEASE DO NOT MOVE THE CHAIRS! Chairs will have been set up for known bubbles/groups of people.

During the Service

The service will take the form of a showing of the pre-recorded service for that week. There will be no congregation singing. No matter how tempted you may be to sing along please do not, you will be required to leave if you do sing.

Remain seated at all times

If you can manage it will be better to refrain from using the toilets, but if you must use a toilet, the downstairs toilets are available, but only those with a window – one male and one female. The windows will be open and must remain open. The door to the Centre will be closed so you will need to pass through the doors behind the communion table, there is a further hand sanitiser in Meeting Point, please use it on your way to the toilets and again on your way back. Please remember to wear your mask at all times – do not remove it in the toilets.

After the Service

We will exit the sanctuary, one row at a time, starting from the back of the church. Please do not wait in the church for your friends, rather leave the church and wait in the car park for your friends, please keep well away from the doors of the church to allow others to leave safely maintaining social distancing. Please use the hand sanitisers in the door lobbies as you leave.

Fire Alarm

In the event of a fire alarm, our normal procedures for evacuating the building will apply and will have priority over these coronavirus related procedures.

*Tony Deighton
Church Secretary
19th August 2020*