



St Paul's Thamesmead United Congregation Q&A

Q1 What date will services in church be resuming?

Services will be resuming on Sunday 26 July 2020

Q2 Will there just be the one service on Sundays?

Yes, there will be just the one service unless enough people want to attend to make it worthwhile having an additional one

Q3 What time will be the service start?

It will start at 9.30 am and last for about 45 minutes

Q4 Do I need to pre-register?

Yes – due to social distancing there are only 50 seats available, so we will need to know how many are coming.

Q5 How do I pre-register?

An invitation will be sent out via the church's WhatsApp news platform a few days before each service. To pre-register you will need to accept that invitation and give your name and that of any other members of your household who will be attending. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis so if the service is oversubscribed, not everyone will be able to attend.

Q6 What about Test and Trace?

Although not compulsory, we will ask all those planning to attend services to complete a Test and Trace consent form giving their name, the names of any children under 18 they intend to bring, and their

phone number. The form should be completed on your phone/other device via a link that you will be given before you attend your first service and does not need to be completed again after that. If you are unable to complete the form online, there will be paper copies available to complete at the church. If you choose to do this, please bring your own pen and arrive in good time before the service begins. Completion of the form will be deemed to be your consent to your details being given to NHS Test and Trace should we be asked to do so. Those who have given their consent will be recorded as present at the services they attend and the register for each service will be held for three weeks before being destroyed. Please note you can withdraw your consent at any time. If you do withdraw your consent or decide not to give your consent at all, we will respect your decision and we will not record you as having been present and we will not pass on your details to NHS Test and Trace if asked to do so.

Q7 How will I know that I will be safe if I choose to attend?

We cannot guarantee that everybody who attends the service will be safe from infection with COVID 19. However, we are following the guidelines set by the Church of England for the safe conduct of services and have implemented the measures set in our risk assessment. These include:

1. The spacing of seats 1m apart except where members of the same household sit together
2. The provision of hand sanitiser when people enter the building
3. The taking of people's temperatures when they enter the building
4. The use of a one-way system once people have entered the building
5. The staggering of services with the Catholics so only one congregation is present in the building at any one time

6. The opening of windows and use of fans to ventilate the building
7. The requirement of all worshippers to wear face masks in the building covering their mouth and nose at all times except when receiving communion.
8. The regular cleaning with anti-viral disinfectant of touchable items such as chairs, door handles, light switches etc.
9. The giving of communion just in one kind (the bread)
10. The omission of the sharing of the peace during the service
11. The omission of singing or loud responses during the service
12. The omission of cash collections. Offerings should be made online.
13. The omission of refreshments or socialising after the service. Clergy will not meet with people as they leave
14. Entrance to the toilet blocks will be restricted to two people at any one time and people will be asked to avoid using them except in case of emergency

Q8 What if I am over 70, shielding, pregnant or have a significant underlying health condition?

Ultimately it is your decision whether or not to attend the services, but our recommendation is that you stay at home and watch the online service instead.

Q9 Will there still be an online service on YouTube?

Yes, there will be a service exactly as before with the same readings, sermon and prayers. The only differences are that the online service will not have communion, but it will have more music.

Q10 What will happen to Junior Church and Youth Church?

Both Junior Church and Youth Church will continue online on Zoom for the time being on their normal days and times. We will keep the

situation under review and hopefully bring these services into the church when it is safe to do so.

Q11 Why can't we have singing and our musicians?

Under current Government regulations, singing is not permitted in church services unless it is by a single cantor. The reason for this is that singing is believed to project the water droplets in our breath that carry COVID.

Q12. What if I feel unwell during the service?

If you feel unwell during the service, you should go home immediately. If you need clinical guidance, you go online to NHS 11 or call 111 (or in an emergency 999). Other people who have been in contact with the person should wash their hands thoroughly after the interaction, but don't need to take any other action unless they develop symptoms themselves or are advised to do so by Test and Trace (see Q12 and Q13 below)

Q13 What if I feel unwell after the service?

If you develop COVID related symptoms within a week of having attended a service, please contact your doctor straight away and, if advised, take a test. If that proves positive, please let us know as soon as possible.

Q14 What if someone else at the service subsequently goes down with COVID?

We will let all those know who were at that service should this happen. As far as we are aware, this does not automatically mean that you have to self-isolate. You will only need to do so if you develop symptoms or are contacted and advised to do so by Test and Trace.

Q15 Can I bring my children to the service?

Yes, you can. They must though sit with you and you are responsible for them at all times. Children may not go to the toilets unattended.

Q16 I am due to do a reading or lead prayers at the service. Do I have to attend?

There is no requirement to attend if you do not feel safe to do so. We can play a video recording of you doing the reading or leading the prayers instead.

Q17 What can I do to help?

We will need volunteers at our services to do the following:

1. Registering people on arrival
2. Taking people's temperatures on arrival
3. Stewarding and guiding people to where they need to be
4. Cleaning the seats, toilets, door handles etc after the service

If you can help with any of these items, it will be much appreciated.