



Church Update – 2nd December 2020

Hello Church

The national lockdown to try to curb the spread of coronavirus has now finished and has been replaced by a 'Tier' system. The Portsmouth area is in Tier 2 (subject to review every two weeks).

It means that we are now allowed to gather people for public worship again.

We have learned much about carrying out meetings in a 'Covid-secure' way and the church's risk assessment has been used to inform the measures that we operated under when we were able to open earlier in the autumn.

Whilst most of us have been hoping for a progression towards more 'normality' in our lives, at least we are now able to meet again and so our services will restart on Sunday 6th December and the good news is that these will be in our building, each Sunday at the normal time, 10.30am! The service will last about an hour.

The Covid-secure measures we have in place will still apply:

- Pre-booking for each person (no matter how young or old!) is essential – please use the Eventbrite link circulated on the prayer chain (it will be different each week)
- Please make sure you book by 12 noon each Friday (so that we have time to design a seating plan and set it up in a socially-distanced way)
- If you have any Covid symptoms, please DO NOT ATTEND
- Temperature check on entry
- Sanitiser supplied to be used on entry
- You will be ushered to your designated seat
- Please wear a face covering throughout the service unless exempt
- You will be ushered out of the building on completion of the service
- No mixing beyond your social bubble on the premises
- No toilets or children's work available at present

The service will be livestreamed. This means you will be able to watch it on our YouTube channel 'as it happens' starting at 10.30am. Once it is completed, a recording of the service will be loaded onto our YouTube channel - we expect this to be ready from about 12 noon. Those who normally receive DVD recordings of the service will unfortunately have to wait until the DVDs are produced – this may mean you won't get to see the recorded service until later on Sunday, or even into Monday.

These are all rules which protect us and those we come into contact with from catching or spreading the virus. Whilst it is irksome and uncomfortable, remember that James tells us to "consider it pure joy" when we face challenges, because our faith is tested, which if we persevere, in the end will lead to maturity. And God's ultimate desire and plan for us is to be "conformed to the image of his Son" Jesus (Romans 8:29). He uses **every** situation to shape our lives to become more like Christ.

Amidst the questions and frustrations you may feel, please do spend time seeking the Lord, and asking Him how He might want you to become more like Jesus through this time. Please do ask if you need support and prayer, so we can help you in your journey. And look out for each other, so we can continue to be growing as "lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ, by being a Christian, Caring, Community."

God bless

Dave, Rob and Steve (PBC elders)