



Church Re-opening

The Government recently announced that churches 'could' reopen after July 4th. The deacons have been consulting everyone about how they feel about re-opening. This will be one factor in our considerations. However, we will also be thinking about:

Rates of infection in Walsall

The proportion of vulnerable congregants

The legal requirements of risk assessments to be completed before re-opening.

If we do re-open for Sunday worship, with current guidance, this is how things will differ:

*You will have to queue at social distancing in the car park and enter one at a time.

*You will need a face covering.

*Your details will need to be recorded for track and trace purposes.

*You will need to disinfect your hands and then go to the seat you are allocated.

*Only family members will be allowed to sit together.

*You may not go within 2m of other households, so no hugging or handshakes.

*No singing, though we could listen to Pete play the keyboard.

*No collection passed around, just a plate at the door.

*No use of church Bibles or hymn books.

*No access to the toilets.

*No children's groups (so, potentially, no families with children).

*The shortest possible service.

*Communion served with gloved hands, no communal loaf.

*No post-service coffee or socialising.

*No chatting in the car park

*Leaving one at a time or through several doors as directed

*Doors open for increased ventilation

After each service, thorough cleaning of seats, lectern, microphones, instruments, doors and surfaces will be required.

This humorous film gives a taster:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utBc3EGVMhU&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR1Pxf2C-d650MKr5ynxepBeqSnD7P-L4CPR898wsxalbAvTjQAn6WZ2s4A>

Church finances

Green Lane has been running at a loss for a number of years, that is, we have spent more each year than we have received through hall lettings and offerings from the congregation. This has been reinforced by the Covid lock down as many people have been unable to give whilst we are not meeting together.

This is, however, the perfect time to think about giving to enable the continuing work of the church in building up the fellowship and in serving the community.

There are 77 adults in the pastoral groups, with another 7 with whom we have regular, if not frequent, contact. Not all the 77 are able to attend, due to age or infirmity. Not all have the financial means to commit to regular giving. **However, if 60 of these people committed to an extra £1 a week, this would raise over £3000 across the year.**

There are 39 members on the list, though again, not all are active and not all have the means to give more.

However, if 25 of those members committed to give an extra £10 a month on top of their current giving, that would raise £3000 across the year too.

(Obviously, we wouldn't make two lots of £3000, as there is overlap between the two groups.)

The church is getting close to our Reserve level

at which decisions would have to be made about asking the minister to go part time, even with our Home Mission grant. Since 2017, we have lost a number of the regular donors, including Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Pitt, Valerie G-S, Joy W, Jean W and John A. We have not replaced them with people matching that total level of giving, though we thank God for new members and regular attendees.

Thank you for thinking about setting up a regular standing order to the church, even if just for a small amount each week or month.

Please ring Sarah or your pastoral deacon for account details if you are able to do this.