

Glossop Central Methodist Church re-opening guidance

We are delighted to announce that Glossop Central Methodist Church is re-opening on Sunday 2nd August at 10:00am and to invite you come and join us in our worship. Unfortunately, circumstances dictate that we cannot share fellowship as freely as we all would wish and we hope that the compromises we ask you to make are understandable, as they are in the best interests of us all in fighting the Coronavirus and ensuring that infection rates stay down.

Before coming to the service:

- If you feel ill, we ask that you do not attend church;
- If you are in the shielding or self-isolation categories, it's OK to go out and about from 1st August, but the Government advises that you stay at home as much as possible and keep interactions outside to a minimum;
- The same applies if you are in one of the vulnerable categories such as someone over the age of 70 or someone with respiratory problems;
- Please aim to arrive around 10 minutes before the service, and be aware that we will have a queuing system to let people in one at a time.
- If you can please **bring a pen** to sign in as part of the track and trace obligations and hand sanitiser.
- Overall the church has limited capacity due to social distancing rules, so you may be told it is full and can choose to go in the large hall or choose to listen from outside;
- A Steward will direct you to a seat and we will try fill up the church from the back first.
- Guidance for families with young children, infants and babies:
 - If you have young children, there is an area set aside for you to sit in and you may wish to **bring books, simple crafts and/or toys to use**; unfortunately at this time we cannot provide any;
 - Please note we have limited capacity so there is only one family area in the church so be aware that if more than one family attends you may have to sit in one of the rows or go into the hall;
 - If you have babies, while the Disabled toilet has a baby change table, please use your own baby changing mat;
 - If you have older children who are able to sit quietly, then you can all sit with the congregation in a row; please remain seated and do not move around during the service
 - We hope to provide occasional Family Friendly services from the Autumn

During the service we ask:

- Please remain seated throughout the service, unless directed otherwise by the leader, or you need to use the toilet (see below);
- Do not turn your chairs around to face one another move them;
- During spoken responses, do not raise your voice;
- If we have any hymns, these will be played to us for us to listen to: please do not sing;
- Please use the service sheets provided and take them away with you at the end of the service. If you want to bring a Bible and / or hymn book please feel free to do so, but you must take it away with you afterwards;
- If you need to go to the toilet during the service you will have to go out through the rear of the church, round to the Community entrance and check with a steward that the toilet is unoccupied as there is a strict one in / one out rule.
- Please do not use the kitchen. bring your own drink if you might need one.
- There are various signs and information posters around the church, please do make sure you read them and follow instructions;
- If you feel ill during the service you must leave immediately (and you should then call the 111 service for advice); however if you are incapacitated please let a steward know so that we can take you to an isolation area while you wait to be collected.

At the end of the service we ask:

- Please do not congregate for a chat in church, but leave the building following instructions, one at a time;
- If you want to have a chat with friends, we suggest that you could do this on the way home keeping socially distanced;

The Government Track and Trace scheme requires us to keep a record of those who attend for 21 days (and then destroyed), so you will be asked for contact details if we don't already have them on our pastoral lists.

At present the advice for face coverings/masks is that they do help to prevent spread of the virus so in enclosed spaces we are encouraged to wear one, but it is not yet a requirement.

Once again, we are sorry that worship cannot resume under completely free and open circumstances, and we ask you to bear with us and to abide by the guidelines that enable us to keep you and everyone as safe as possible.