



Trinity at Bowes *Methodist* Church & Centre Plus

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TaB - Reopening for Worship on Sunday 6th September 2020 at 10.30am

Dear Members and friends of TaB & Centre Plus,

I greet you in Jesus name, and genuinely hope that you and your loved ones are safe and well.

TaB is delighted to be able to bring you news of an exceptionally positive development. In September, our Sanctuary will be reopening for worship, while 'Centre Plus' remains partially closed. The attached details will guide you through our plans and what TaB expect from you as a member, a friend or trustee of the body of Trinity at Bowes Methodist Church & Centre Plus.

Of course, we have missed gathering together physically, however for the love of each other, we cannot encourage you back into the building until it is safe to do so. I am heeding positively to all guidelines both from the government and the Methodist Circuit to keep TaB safe for not only worshipping members but also for the community members who use our building on a regular basis.

Preparations continue to gain momentum and full details are attached. Discussions are underway regarding whether to hold two services on Sunday 6th September 2020. One at 10.30am and the other at 4.00pm, rather than at our usual evening service time of 6.30pm. The New River Methodist Circuit on-line services will be continuing for the time being.

For the first three months into the new Methodist year: September 2020 (Sept, Oct, Nov), we will continue to monitor the changing environment and other guidelines to update our practices.

Please note, for those who are unable to travel, TaB will offer them at their home a printed Methodist worship material or worship in a recorded format.

We are seeking for your views on how together we can help our church and Centre Plus in making important decisions as we move forward and operate beyond the Covid-19 pandemic lock-down. Please use Wednesday's 5pm 'Zoom meeting' to share your views and opinions which will be included in our decision-making process. (*Zoom Meeting ID- 992 829 7354. Passcode-849433*)

Matthew 13:51 says, when Jesus finished telling his disciples the parables, he asked them, "Have you understood all this?" "Yes," they answered. If the Word of God has touched your life during the Covid-19 lockdown, if you are willing to make Christ the priority in your life, I hope you will respond inwardly with a "yes," too.

I very much hope that you take the opportunity to enjoy the longer summer days over the next few weeks. In the meantime, take care and thank you as ever for your continued support. Every genuine good wish to you and your family - and thank you for all your messages, gifts and support which TaB and I greatly appreciate.

Please do stay safe and well.

Yours in Christ
Rev Sam

TaB Sanctuary Preparation

On Arrival

1. No one will be turned away. However, for the safety of others and yourself, you should not attend the service if you:
 - a. have Covid-19 symptoms (e.g. Fever, Sickness, Nausea, Diarrhoea, Recent Persistent Coughing), loss of taste or smell),
 - b. are recovering from symptoms. If Covid-19 symptoms have ceased please allow another 48 hours,
 - c. are needing to shield,
 - d. are required to self-isolate, or
 - e. have received notification of a recent 'positive' Covid-19 test result.
2. All worshippers must register for the purpose of TRACK and TRACE. Your contact details will be kept secure in accordance with GDPR regulations.
3. The Circuit advocate that Methodism is all-inclusive, and as such no attendee to a service has to book a place. We hope not to have to turn people away, but the law requires us to limit numbers according to the capacity of the building. Once our capacity has been reached then people will be instead invited to attend the 4pm service. However, registering in advance would speed up our registration process. Text or phone Charles Dadey (07946 471664) if you are likely to attend, and if using your car, add your reg number to avoid a PCN fine.
4. Please bring with you
 - a. a mask or a scarf to cover nose and mouth, as you are required to wear one in the building. Please bring your own. *Several members of our congregation are able to make masks if needed. Call Peter on 07973 345363 if you wish to buy one (£5 toward Klasp charity)*
 - b. A Bible, as Church Bible will not be given out
 - c. Bottle of water (labelled with your name) as drinks will not be provided
 - d. Your own preferred hand sanitiser (although sanitizer will be available for use on arrival)
5. If you have to use public transport, please wear an outer garment that can be removed when you arrive and therefore bring a large bag to keep it in, so it is not draped over seating.
6. Please arrive with enough time to allow for essential hand sanitising and registration. There may be a queue of people before the service. *(2meter Social distancing should be observed)*
7. The service will start promptly at 10:30, finishing by 11:30 and everyone must be out of the building & car park by 12:00.
8. Evening service: the main door will be opened by 3.30pm. The service will start *(Café Lounge is an option)* promptly at 4.00pm, finishing by 4.45pm and everyone must be out of the building & car park by 5.00pm.

During the Worship

1. For your safety, a steward will direct you to where you wish to sit. Chairs have been specifically arranged to ensure the required social distancing. The two-meter distance rule must be maintained between individuals and households at all times, sadly this means no hugs and handshakes or any physical contact.
2. Worshippers must stay together in Families/households/support bubbles without moving around. Children under age 11 must be with parents and be accompanied to the toilet. Little ones should be held firmly or strapped into buggies.
3. Unfortunately, we are not allowed to have any congregational singing in the Sanctuary. However, music will still be part of worship (*Solo singers may be part of the worship but be take place behind a screen*).
4. Your offerings will be welcomed and blessed at the end of the service as we leave. However, if you are in the envelope scheme, you only need to bring one envelope with your combined offertory that has your reference number clearly marked.
5. At the end of the service, worshippers will be directed by the stewards to safely leave the premises through the fire exit near the organ. Strictly, there is to be no socialising inside the TaB building purely to help those who are cared for.
6. A system of “one in - one out” will apply to the toilets. Paper towels will be provided for drying hands as electric dryers are not allowed.
7. Until further notice TaB will be the only users of the sanctuary. The Sanctuary will be cleaned midweek in preparation for the next Sunday worship.
8. Opening requirements for the church can change at any given time as Government announcements of Statutory Regulations and advice change. TaB will respond promptly to ensure they are followed. Your safety is our priority.