



5th January 2021

Dear Friends,

Following the announcement of a third national lockdown at the beginning of January, we have prayerfully considered the implications of that for us as a church. Whilst we are aware of the seriousness of the situation, we are thankful that provision has been made for the continuance of corporate worship on the Lord's Day. It is important that those who are in the groups that have been identified as at serious risk, take particular care. All the services will be streamed live online so there is no obligation on any to come as there is access to ministry online.

Seeking to honour the Lord, we also want to respect those placed in authority over us. This pandemic has brought immense challenges. We are making sure to adhere to guidance for the wellbeing and safety of our church family, but also out of love and concern for our neighbours and the community around us. As a church, we do not want to bring the Lord Jesus Christ into disrepute by either failing to be good citizens nor, worse, by ignoring advice and being the cause of a Covid-19 outbreak. This could ruin our gospel witness for the time ahead.

Therefore it is vitally important that we adhere to the guidance and we want to do all that is within our capability to be blameless in our approach before the world. So, if it is your intention to physically join us in church on Sunday, please pay close attention to the following instructions:

1. Please do not come if you have a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.
2. The government guidance states that those over 70 and those in vulnerable categories should seriously consider whether it is wise to attend in the current circumstances.
3. Those with children must keep them close at all times whilst on the premises.
4. The building will be cleaned and sanitised in preparation for each service and then after.
5. Only the front main church entrance will be used for entry and exit unless in an emergency when other fire exits will be brought into use.
6. The building has been arranged with social distancing measures in place. A 2m distancing rule and signage to remind attendees of this can be found throughout the building. This has reduced capacity substantially (under 30%) and we have limited space available. Priority will be given to church members and regular congregation, and if possible those visitors who have contacted us to see if space is available. This can be done either by email - contact@penzancebaptistchurch.com; or by phone on 07703464971. Sadly once we are at capacity we will have to close the doors and will be unable to admit any more. That is why letting us know whether you intend to be with us or not is so important.
7. The building will be open from 10:40am on Sunday morning and 6pm on Sunday evening for attendees to take their seats.

8. A seating plan has been employed and those who have indicated that they will be coming will be told in advance where they are sitting.
9. In accordance with new government legislation, face masks or face coverings must be worn by those attending the services apart from where legitimate exemptions apply.
10. If there is a queue on approach to the building, please adhere to the social distancing marked in the courtyard. Also please be sensitive to the public if you are waiting outside.
11. To avoid crowding, attendees should not stop for conversations in the entrance or in the aisles in the church. They should make their way to their seat and remain there throughout the service, except if they need to use the toilet.
12. On entering the building, attendees should be willing to provide contact details to one of the stewards for NHS Track & Trace records. Visitors information will be kept for 21 days and then securely disposed of.
13. Also on entrance, hand sanitiser will be administered by a steward. Hand cleaning products will also be available in the toilets.
14. The service will be simple and straightforward with readings, prayers, and a message. At this stage there will be no singing. This will be kept under review should government guidance be updated. There will be Bibles available in pews and they must be left there after the service. If Bibles have been used by visitors they will be cleaned and put into quarantine.
15. Sunday services will be live-streamed on the church website and YouTube channel.
16. Non-essential areas of the building, including the kitchen, are out of use for all attendees. Disposable cups of water will be available on entrance.
17. Once the service has ended, each pew is to use the cleaning wipes provided to wipe down all surfaces in their pew. They are to take the wipes they have used with them to dispose of in the allotted bins on exit.
18. A steward will oversee a phased exit from the building after the service. This will be one pew at a time from the back of the church. It is essential that we follow that order to avoid any congestion.
19. If you would like to give towards the Lord's work at PBC the usual boxes are available at the back. This will be quarantined for the appropriate time after the service.
20. It is advised that attendees leave the building promptly and directly without unnecessary interaction.
21. After attendees have departed, the stewards will clean all necessary surfaces in preparation for the next meeting.

Thank you in advance for your patience, understanding and cooperation in these arrangements. Please take them seriously. They will be kept under review and we look forward, God willing, to a time when we can meet without such restrictions.

We pray for the Lord's blessing on all who worship Him, both at PBC and those who will still be in their own homes via the livestream. If you do have any questions, please feel free to ask us and we will do our best to answer.

Yours warmly in Him,

Jon Stobbs

(On behalf of the Elders and Deacons)