

Kirby-le-Soken Evangelical Church

The Street, Kirby-le-Soken, FRINTON-ON-SEA, Essex, CO13 0EE

Guidelines for church activities after Step 4

On July 19th most COVID-19 legal restrictions were lifted in England. These guidelines set out how Kirby-le-Soken Evangelical Church will conduct its activities in this new environment.

This document is owned and agreed by the church council. It will be regularly reviewed and updated.

As a church council we recognise that the Coronavirus pandemic is still continuing, and despite vaccinations many people in the local area are testing positive. We recognise our duty of care to all who come to the church including the elderly and vulnerable and publish these guidelines to reassure them that we are working to keep them safe.

1. The church is open for morning and evening worship on Sundays, Mums and Toddlers on Tuesdays (term time only), Prayer and Bible Study on Thursdays, Coffee Morning on Fridays, a monthly work morning and other activities as announced.
2. Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild, should not attend. They should self-isolate immediately and get a PCR test.
3. If someone has been instructed by NHS Test and Trace to self-isolate because they have tested positive for COVID-19, or they are the close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, they must self-isolate and not attend.
4. On entering the building we expect everyone to use the hand sanitiser.
5. Whilst there are no longer any legal restrictions on social distancing many will want to maintain a cautious approach. To accommodate this we will maintain a one metre distance between rows of chairs and space the chairs out so that some can sit in groups and others alone.
6. The wearing of face coverings is no longer compulsory but while infection rates are high we encourage everyone who is able to wear a face covering inside the building. This will help to reduce the risk of spreading the virus particularly when entering and leaving the building, talking to others indoors and whilst singing.
7. We will open windows to increase ventilation at all meetings.
8. We will provide a QR code at the entrances for use with the NHS COVID-19 app and maintain a record of those attending for 21 days to support NHS Test and Trace. These records will be kept securely. NHS Test and Trace will only ask to see these records if there is an outbreak at the church in which case they will ask people to book a test, but not self-isolate unless they test positive.
9. Services will include congregational singing but we ask people to wear face coverings when singing and not to sing in loud voices.
10. We will make the Sunday morning and evening services available on Skype for those unable to attend. Audio recordings of services are available on the church website, and videos on a memory stick. An audio feed of services will play in the rear hall for anyone who particularly wants to keep away from other people.
11. Additional cleaning of surfaces that people touch regularly (e.g. handles and rails) will be done after the Sunday morning meeting.
12. In order to hold a communion service bread and wine will be prepared in the kitchen by no more than two people, wearing face covering and gloves. They will cover the elements and place them on a table near the front of the church but to the side rather than in front of the minister. The bread will be put on large platters. Serving the bread and

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wine will be done by two individuals (wearing masks) with participants picking the bread from the platter and taking the wine from the tray in the usual manner.

13. Refreshments are served at some events. Those involved in preparing and serving food and drink will wear gloves and face coverings. We will serve food, either by table service or a served buffet but not help yourself.
14. Numbers of adults at the Mums and toddler group will be kept below fifteen. We will limit the total number of people at Coffee Morning to thirty due to the size of the room.
15. We will continue to project hymns and readings to reduce the use of shared hymn books and Bibles.

Document History

Issue 1 23-Jul-21 Introduction of Step 4 guidance

Keith Munford

23-Jun-2021

Kirby-le-Soken Evangelical Church is a charitable incorporated organisation (registered charity number 1170625)