

The **Methodist Church South Fylde Circuit Services at The Drive Methodist Church August**

The Circuit Staff agreed that we should open the Circuit Churches in phases beginning with The Drive. Arrangements are now in place for us to reopen The Drive at 10.30 a.m. on 9th August. We know people are cautious of coming together and some may feel now is not the time for them. To help you understand what the experience will be like we have put together some guidance/frequently asked questions.

We look forward to joining with you in worship when the time is right for you.

Rev. Stephen N Heath
On behalf of the Circuit Staff

Anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell) should not attend the place of worship due to the risk that they pose to others; they should self-isolate at home immediately with other members of their household.

Can I just turn up on Sunday morning?

No, you are asked to book by emailing thedriveworship@gmail.com or ringing 01253 729849 no later than 9.00 p.m. on the preceding Friday.

What information do I have to provide?

You are asked to book, provide your name and either telephone number or email which will be kept for 21 days and if required made available to the NHS Test and Trace Service.

What can I expect when I arrive at church?

Entry to Church will be through the main door on Clifton Drive, exiting Church will be via the Foyer and Eastbank Road door. Your temperature will be taken before entering. Social distancing will be maintained outside and inside the building,

Do I have to wear a face covering?

Yes, they are now required in line with Government requirements.

Should I wear gloves?

We ask that you sanitise your hands on entry therefore we would ask that gloves are not worn in church

Can I sit anywhere?

In order to help as many people as possible to attend, you are only allowed to sit in designated areas observing 2m Social Distancing at all times. You will be guided through a one-way system and the church filled from the exit to the entrance in order of entry, thereby minimising contact with other people. Children must stay with their household at all times.

Can we chat with people before and after the service?

Guidelines ask that we discourage formal and informal fellowship before and after the service. Coffee will not be available after service.

How long will the service last?

Approximately 30 minutes.

Will there be a collection/offertory?

We encourage you to give electronically direct to the church account, please let us know if you would like details. There will be plates as you enter and leave church. Envelopes from other church schemes should be given to that church directly.

Will there be singing?

Government restrictions do not permit singing at this time.

Can I make prayer requests?

Please email the requests to Judith at jp.smith185@btinternet.com or ring 01253 720986 and we will include them in the Service.

Can I use the toilets?

Toilet facilities will be available **but only for emergencies**. These can be accessed from Church and will be clearly marked. To return into Church you will be required to exit via the side entrance opposite the toilets and walk round the building, re-entering through the main Church door on Clifton Drive. Stewards will be available for guidance.

Clinically vulnerable groups

If you're 70 or older, pregnant or usually need a flu jab for underlying medical conditions you might be in the 'clinically vulnerable' category. If so, follow the staying alert and safe (social distancing) guidance.

If I am aged 70 years or over should I attend?

Government advice says certain groups of people may be at increased risk of severe disease from COVID-19, including people who are aged 70 or older, regardless of medical conditions. Individuals who fall within this group are advised to stay at home as much as possible and, if they do go out, to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside of their household.

If I am shielding can I attend?

Shielding relates to people who are identified as clinically extremely vulnerable may be at high risk of serious illness if they catch COVID-19. From 1st August, the Government paused shielding unless the transmission of COVID-19 in the community starts to rise significantly. You may still be at risk of severe illness if you catch coronavirus, so stay at home as much as you can and continue to take precautions when you do go out.