



REDLAND PARK UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
Redland Park, Redland,
Bristol BS6 6SA
www.redlandparkurc.org
Registered Charity No 1131460

Friday 4th September 2020

Dear Friend,

As you will no doubt know, Redland Park URC has been closed for worship since mid-March due to the Covid-19 pandemic. I am, therefore, delighted to be able to write to you on behalf of the minister and Elders with the arrangements for re-opening the church for worship. They have been put together by a group representing interests across the church and have at their heart our primary concern: safety.

We plan to restart worshipping in church from Sunday 13th September, with services starting at **10:40am**. In order to maintain social distancing requirements, we have opted to limit the congregation initially to a maximum of 18 plus minister, organist and two a/v operators. We recognise, of course, that this is a low number, but feel it the safest way to restart our services and we hope to increase this number over time.

As a result, it will be necessary to book a place if you want to attend the church service. We recognise that this is also far from ideal but, again, we feel it is the right way to start. If you wish to attend a church service on any of the first three Sundays (13th, 20th and 27th Sept), please let me know exactly who you are booking for, which service(s) you would like to attend and which service, if any, would be your “first choice”. Bookings should be made via email (andrewhayden@blueyonder.co.uk) or phone (07984 146 318). I will then do my best to accommodate all requests, hopefully ensuring that everyone who wants to attend a service gets to attend at least one, ideally their “first choice”. If you wish to attend the service on Sunday 13th September, please ensure that your request reaches me by Friday 11th September. On Saturday 12th September, I will email each attendee (or phone, if you don’t have an email address) to confirm your booking for the following day. Any requests received after Friday 11th September will be considered for subsequent services. For subsequent weeks, please let me know by the Thursday (i.e. 17th or 24th September); I will confirm bookings on the Friday or Saturday. Please only attend a church service if you have received confirmation from me.

Before attending a church service, please note:

- The pew cushions will be removed, so you may wish to bring your own cushion.
- No Bibles will be provided. Again, please feel free to bring your own.
- The kitchen will be closed until further notice, so you may also wish to bring a drink.
- I will circulate the service order via email, as has been the case over recent months. If you wish to have a printed service order, please print and bring your own (and take it away!); none will be provided.

- Unless you are exempted under UK government guidelines, please wear a mask at all times inside the church building.
- Please do not attend if you show any symptoms of Covid-19. If possible, please let me know in advance if this is the case so that someone else can attend.

When entering church:

- Please arrive in plenty of time, remembering that the service starts at **10:40am**.
- Please only enter via the main front (double) doors.
- Markings will be placed outside the church to indicate queueing positions.
- Please ensure you see me so that I can record your attendance (for Test and Trace purposes) and take your temperature. Regrettably, if your temperature is too high, you will not be allowed into church.
- Please use the hand sanitisers provided.
- A steward will show you to your seat. Please note that only alternate pews will be in use and there is every chance that you will not be able to sit in “your usual seat”.
- A basket will be available before the service for collecting cash offerings. No offertory will be taken during the service.

During the service:

- There will be no congregational singing.
- Dougie won't wear mask.
- Readers should use a roving microphone and may remove their mask to read. Please do not share microphones.
- Immediately notify a steward if you start feeling unwell.

After the service:

- Please wait until a steward invites you to leave (one pew at a time).
- Please leave the building promptly. If you wish to chat, please do so outside.
- There will be no tea or coffee.
- If you start suffering from symptoms of Covid-19 in the week after attending church, please notify me (for Test & Trace purposes).

Other points to note:

- Services will be live-streamed via Zoom, using the same login details as we have been using on Zoom to date:
 - Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7320018996?pwd=YTNrVjc5NHNGOHVra295WXp0eHBjUT09>
 - Meeting ID: 732 001 8996
Passcode: 8cC7Zv
- Whilst fine details haven't yet been finalised, we anticipate that services will last around 40 minutes.
- We aim to make audio CD's of live-streamed services available. If you would like a CD, either as a one-off or on a regular basis, please let me know.

- There will be no Junior Church or creche on church premises until at least October. Alternative arrangements are being made and will be communicated directly to Junior Church members. When Junior Church resumes on the premises, they will use church rooms and follow guidelines for schools/educational establishments.
- Stewards will be drawn from those attending each Sunday. If you are prepared to be a steward, please let me know when making your booking. Duties will include showing people to and from their seats; full details will be made available nearer the time.
- The ladies' toilet will be closed; the disabled toilet should be used instead. Only part of the men's toilet will be open. Means will be provided to allow each person to clean the toilet before and after use if they so choose.
- The Bristol Korean Church will use the church after us (but not until October at the earliest); they will clean the church between services.
- We recommend everyone gets a flu jab.
- Lettings will resume from Monday 7th September.
- September's Church Meeting will be held at 7:30pm on Wednesday 23rd September via Zoom.
- As has been our practice on Zoom, "Virtual Communion" will be celebrated on Sunday 4th October. Whether you attend church or join via Zoom, please provide your own bread and wine; no bread or wine will be provided. Communion arrangements will be reviewed by the Elders at their meeting in October and may change for subsequent months.

We hope you understand that all of these arrangements have everyone's health and well-being in mind, and aim to include everyone in worship as far as is practical. They will be reviewed and reassessed periodically with the intention of increasing attendance at church and allowing more of the personal interaction that we normally enjoy.

Finally, if you have received this letter by post rather than email, and have an email address, I would be grateful if you would let me have it so that you can receive future communications more quickly.

With all best wishes,

Andrew Hayden

Secretary, Redland Park URC

andrewhayden@blueyonder.co.uk

07984 146 318