

ChristChurch Banstead Re-Opening- What you need to know



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Introduction

The information given below relating to our Sunday service arrangements will be kept under review and updated as appropriate. Other arrangements for the autumn, such as for midweek groups, will be communicated nearer the time.

Though we are delighted to be able to meet please be aware that our gatherings will feel quite different and normality may not resume for some time. Nonetheless, we believe that all the extra inconveniences are worth it so that we can be together in person.

May we encourage sensitivity towards one another. Some will not be anxious in the least and some may be feeling very anxious, others will not feel comfortable attending. Please show grace to one another, showing respect and knowing we all struggle in different ways.

The document contains a lot of information. Please be assured that there will be stewards and others on hand to help and direct at each of the services should you be unsure.

If, at any point, you develop COVID-19 symptoms please inform us: office@christchurchbanstead.org so we can support you and also inform anyone who may have been in contact with you.

Timing

We are glad to announce that ChristChurch Banstead will re-open from Sunday July 19. Services will be approximately 45 minutes, and a maximum of 1 hour.

Pre-Service Prayer Meetings

For the moment, these will not happen on-site but continue on Zoom at the new time of 9am. Please see the NEWS for Zoom codes.

News

We will continue to send NEWS electronically and updates will be issued via email and/or social media. Paper copies of the NEWS are available by request.

Services

Will be held each Sunday at 10.15am and 6.15pm. These services will take place in the Main Auditorium with two overflow areas, first the YouthZone, and then the Lounge. This service is for adults and those in school year 6 and above – though, where possible, we encourage youth to attend with their families in the evening. Arrangements for children (and babies) are in a separate section and children's group leaders will be in touch with families separately to explain further detail of the arrangements. [UPDATE 21/7: Youth (11-18s) are encouraged to attend either or both services.]

Safety

Government advice ([here](#)) has been followed and a full Risk Assessment of all activities has been undertaken.

We appreciate this will be difficult but please avoid physical contact such as hugging or shaking hands. Also avoid touching surfaces - other than when essential, i.e. handles for opening toilet door or taps.

Other safety advice is included in this document under the relevant section headings.

Attendance

You must not attend if you are showing any COVID-19 symptoms. Those who are shielded (who will have been contacted by the government) should not currently attend worship services. Please also be aware that those over 70 have a greatly increased risk of severe disease from COVID-19 and so should also weigh the risk of attendance.

We ask you to attend only one service each Sunday. The exceptions to this are those who will be serving in both services and the children's work team who have missed the adult morning service. We expect the 6.15pm service to be less busy and so encourage evening attendance where possible. [UPDATE 4/8: We currently have enough space should you wish to attend both Sunday services].

Booking

You do not currently need to book. However, there is limited space in the Auditorium. Once the Auditorium is filled you will be directed to the overflow areas in the YouthZone and the Lounge. Our recent survey indicates that there will be space for everyone who wishes to attend. [UPDATE 4/8: To date we have not needed to use the overflow areas and there is some space in the Auditorium]. [Update 4/9: We are currently using the overflow areas but have plenty of additional space].

Online Services

The morning and evening services will have different content and will be streamed online. By request, DVDs will be available for those who need them.

Music, Baptism and Communion

The current government guidance prohibits congregational singing and permits solo singing - but only where essential. Pre-recorded or instrumental music may form part of the service and when this takes place, we ask you to refrain from singing.

Baptism is only permitted by sprinkling and not by immersion.

Communion is permitted, though presents logistical challenges. We will not have communion in July but hope to thereafter. Current guidelines mean that those distributing bread and wine must

sanitise their hands, hand out cups to each person individually, and drop bread into hands without touching the recipient. All procedures will be thoroughly explained as and when we share bread and wine together. [UPDATE 4/8: We have successfully resumed communion services] [UPDATE 4/9: Baptism is now permitted under defined circumstances. Singing from the music group is also permitted].

Carparking

This will remain unaffected. Parking will be available in the front and rear car parks. Please maintain your social distance whilst in the car parks.

Arrival

We aim to start services on time in order to minimise the amount of time we gather in the building and for the sake of those tuning in via YouTube.

In the morning, please arrive between 9.45-10.05am. This will allow time for everyone to be checked, registered and seated before the service starts. Those who are late may be directed to an overflow area so as not to disrupt the filming.

If you have children in Reception to Year 6 who wish to participate in the children's groups, we ask you arrive at 10.00am.

In the evening, please aim to arrive between 6.00-6.10pm.

[UPDATE 4/8: Arrival and registration is happening quickly and smoothly and less time is needed for entry. Please therefore arrive 15 minutes before the services].

Queuing, Checks, Registration, and Entry

Please maintain social distancing by observing the floor markings. The stewards will be on hand to direct people and to help us enter the building as quickly and safely as possible. Please help the stewards by following all their directions.

Whilst you queue, you will be asked to 'register' and provide a name and phone number so the NHS can contact you in the highly unlikely event of infection. This can be done in advance via our website. This is not compulsory.

You will be asked if you have any COVID-19 symptoms (a new and persistent cough, a temperature of 37.8°C or above, or a change in your ability to taste or smell). If you have not been able to take your own temperature before coming people will be able to do this for you. If you have any COVID-19 symptoms you will be asked not to enter the church building.

Upon entering the building, you must cleanse your hands with the hand-sanitizer provided. Please do this as quickly as possible before finding a seat.

*Children meeting in the rear hall (as shall be notified by the group leaders) do not need to queue but proceed directly to the side entrance to be checked and then registered by their group leader.

Parents dropping off children at the side-entrance will need to return, join the queue, and enter through the main entrance.

Seating

All seating has been arranged with a minimum of 1m distance between side-facing chairs and 1.5m distance between 'rows'. This is in accordance with the 1m+ mitigation guidance. The mitigations are these: no face to face seating, ventilation, and a wide aisle to assist entering and exiting.

Please do not sit next to someone who is not in your household/support bubble, even if there is a spare seat.

[UPDATE 21/7: Please do not move around the auditorium to chat or greet people during the service].

Seats have mainly been arranged in pairs with some single seats and some triplets. Please do not move the seats but leave any chair moving to the stewards. A few seats will inevitably have to remain unoccupied.



Face Coverings and PPE

Face coverings and masks are not obligatory. They will not be provided. Should you, for whatever reason, wish to wear a face covering you are welcome to do so. In the event of you requiring medical attention our First Aiders will have full PPE available to them.

[UPDATE 21/7: The Government advice has recently changed and now people are encouraged to wear face masks in enclosed public spaces such as places of worship. We now also encourage you to bring and wear a face-covering, but it is not (yet) mandatory for you to do so].

[UPDATE 4/8: From Saturday 8 August facemasks in places of worship are mandatory. There are valid exceptions listed on the Government website. If you are exempt for any reason it would be helpful if you could indicate this to the leadership in advance of your visit. Please be sensitive to the fact that others may be unaware that exemptions exist and for this reason you may be asked to sit towards the rear of the auditorium or in the overflow area].

Bibles

You will not be permitted to use church bibles. A service sheet, including bible readings, will be placed on each chair. Though not essential, we would encourage you to bring your own bibles.

What to Bring

You may wish to bring the following:- (i) an umbrella (or coat) in case you need to queue in the rain; (ii) A water bottle; (iii) A warm jumper or coat if the weather is cold, as windows and doors will be open to provide ventilation; (iv) A bible, notebook and pen, as these will not be provided – though the printed text of the preaching passage will be; (v) a face covering or mask should you wish.

[UPDATE 4/8: Item (v) is now mandatory].

Exit

Exiting will begin from the front immediately the service concludes. Do not form a queue to exit but leave as soon as the way is clear. (Those with children in the Rear Hall should wait until everyone else has exited then follow behind promptly.) Take any sheets left on your seat and deposit them in the paper-recycling bin by the exit if you do not wish to keep them. Those in the Main Auditorium should exit via the side-door. Those in the Lounge should exit via the door they entered. Those in the YouthZone should go down the office stairs and exit via the door next to the Funeral Director's. Those with children should collect them immediately. Please disperse promptly.

Fire

In the event of an alarm the service leader will instruct you to leave through the nearest exit, and the one-way system will not operate. Your children should not be collected but will already be exiting the building and brought to you outside the old police station (which is adjacent to the Funeral Director).

Toilets

These will be open, but we strongly encourage you to go before you come. Once you have used the facilities please wash your hands thoroughly and use the wipes provided to clean the door lock, seat, the toilet flush, taps, and anything else you have touched.

Drinking Water

This will not be available except for medical need. Please bring your own water bottle if you wish.

Creche, Children, and YouthWork

Those in our children's groups will go straight to their groups and not join the main service. You should aim to drop off your child at 10.00am. The children will be checked before being registered by their group leader. Those entering by the main entrance will be checked along with the adults. Those entering by the side entrances will be checked there. Parents dropping off children at the side-entrances should not enter the building but return to join the queue at the main entrance. Parents will not be permitted to enter the main auditorium from the side-entrance.

Where possible, youth (School Year 6 and above) are encouraged to attend in the evening.

We would be grateful if parents took responsibility to help their children respect social distancing and avoid physical contact before and after their time in groups.

[UPDATE 4/8: Children can be dropped off between 10-10.10am]

[UPDATE 4/9: There is space for school years 6 and above to attend either or both services. There is a Zoom meeting for school year 6-9 at 8.40-9.30am prior to the main service. After which this age group is encouraged to attend the main service(s). Codes available from David Ridal.]

Creche

This will operate each morning but will meet downstairs in the left-hand section of the foyer (where the bookstall normally is.)

Children

Please refer to the arrival/exit instructions for arrival and exit.

Each child will be assigned a 'bubble' of 12 children (max). Within the bubble, social-distancing measures will not be followed though contact will be discouraged. Children will remain in this bubble throughout the summer, keeping the same leaders. Your child's leader will be in touch to tell you what colour bubble your child will join and meeting place. If you meet in the rear hall you must drop off and collect your children via the side entrances. If your children are meeting in the Upper Room you must drop off and collect your children via the main entrance, entering via the queuing

system that will be in place for the Main Auditorium. Children should be collected immediately the service concludes.

[UPDATE 4/9: As we have now entered the Autumn term our usual groups resume for children. A new Treasure Seekers bubble will meet in the back hall (drop-off arrangements as before - 10am, side entrance). A new Kids Alive bubble will meet in the upper room (drop-off at 10am at the main front door of the church building).]

Youth

Neither our YP1 (11-14s) nor YP2 (14-18s) Youth Groups will meet over the summer. We encourage their attendance at the main services with their family.

[UPDATE 4/8: We encourage Youth to attend with their families at either or both services].

[UPDATE 4/9: **YP1 (Years 6-9)** - will be meeting online on Zoom before the morning service, from 08:40 to 09:30. **We would love those in YP1 to then gather with the rest of the church family in the main service at 10:15.** If you are a parent of a child in YP1, please refer to the email from David Ridal for more details. **YP2 (Years 10-13)** - will be meeting from 8pm to 9pm in the main church building. Please wear masks and adhere to social distancing.]

Refreshments

No refreshments will be served.