

# Guidance for 10:30am Face to Face worship at BRMC

Version 4 | 13/4/21 (key updates in purple)



Bognor Regis  
Methodist Church

*“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.” John 4:7*

As we continue our journey of emergence into living and worshipping together through the ongoing pandemic, there are various changes we've made to the layout in the building as well as how we will gather together. This includes various commitments we will need from one another. Further below is a summary of these things which will enable us to all work together to create a safer space.



## Preparing for worship

For those of you who plan to attend face to face worship at BRMC, please be aware that worship will be different to many experiences of face to face worship you may have had before.

The restrictions and measures we have to implement mean that many aspects of worship, including interaction, movement, singing and participation all have to happen differently. We will be wearing face coverings and so facial responses will 'masked'.

We are *emerging* into a new way of worshipping. A period of learning & experimenting. Over the coming weeks we hope to explore a variety of ideas of how we can worship creatively within the measures.

## A Christian community of Love & Safety

*Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live<sup>1</sup>*



One of the most important things we need to do as we emerge into this next phase of worshipping God together face to face during the ongoing pandemic, is think of one another. Some of us are very excited about being able to gather for face-to-face worship, others are very anxious. Let us love one another by being aware of the diversity among us and all doing our part to keep ourselves and each other safe.

**We can all do our part to build a house where all can safely live by all following the guidance below.** We hope that this will give some sense of reassurance if you are particularly anxious.

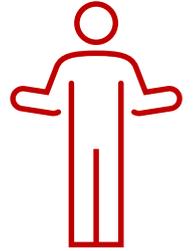
<sup>1</sup> From Singing the Faith 409, Author – Marty Haugen



## Serving

To make face to face worship possible requires people to serve in various roles, including welcoming, marshalling and directing people, cleaning before, during or after events and overseeing track and trace data collection.

If you feel able to offer to help in any way, please contact a church steward. When offering to serve, please be mindful of your own vulnerability to COVID-19 and current government guidance relevant for you, including your health, age, ethnicity. No-one should feel any pressure to serve in ways beyond that which feels safe.



## Financial Giving



Due to guidance about handling money and risk of cross-contamination, we continue to encourage direct giving via standing order. For details of how to do this contact a steward or church treasurer.

We know this is not possible for all people, so an offering plate will be at the back of the worship area. We ask you place money in this as you enter for worship.

## Feedback

We continue to be a learning community as we journey through this pandemic. and continue to review and update guidance as necessary. If you have questions or comments to make, please do share with church stewards or contact our minister Rev Dan Balsdon, [dan.balsdon@methodist.org.uk](mailto:dan.balsdon@methodist.org.uk) | Tel: 01243 823895.

Your feedback will help us reflect on what we do and make positive developments for the future.

## What do I need to know? *Guidance for Face to Face worship at BRMC*

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As we emerge to begin worshipping God together face to face, we ask that everyone shows love for one another by seeking to follow the guidance outlined below.



### General Guidance

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Please do not attend face to face worship if you have any symptoms of Covid-19 (high temperature, new or continuous cough, change/loss to sense of taste/smell)

At all times please maintain 2m social distance between your household or bubble

While in the building, please do not 'interact with anyone outside your household or bubble.

Please Wear a face covering while in the building (unless medically or otherwise exempt)

Additional guidance may be given by stewards/preacher as appropriate.

Doors & windows may be open for ventilation, on a cool day you may want an extra layer



### Arrival & Entry

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The building will open for you from 10:15, please try not arrive before that time and queue on the pavement, 2m distance from one another.

Stewards will be on hand to welcome you into the building and direct you.

Please use the hand sanitiser provided in the entrance and follow the one-way system (marked with green arrows).

As you enter the worship area, another steward will take your contact details for our track and trace record, or you can use the QR code.

An offering plate for financial gifts to the work of God here will be available.

Please follow our one-way system to find a seat and remain there until the service ends

You will need to sit with your household/bubble & keep conversation with others to a minimum.

We will initially have a capacity set at 30-35 people.



### Worship

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We encourage you to bring your own bible with you.

Worship services will last around 45 minutes, with no singing, notice sheets or handouts.

Some words for songs or prayers may be displayed on the screen.

If you have prayer requests, we may include open prayer, or prayer requests can be communicated to stewards or preacher in advance.

Children and young people will need to remain with parent/carers throughout.



## Communion

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When communion is celebrated every effort will be made to ensure it is celebrated as safely and hygienically as possible.

Communion will be shared in one kind only (bread) and brought to you in your seats.

On the day the preacher will talk through in more detail what will happen.



## After Worship

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Please wait until a steward indicates it is safe for you to leave.

Please follow the one-way system as directed by stewards, and refrain from talking to each other until you have left the building.

During May we will trial using the main glass doors for exit at the end of the service.

Once you have left the building, please move well out of the way of the doors. If you wish to chat with others when outside, please observe the rule of 6, and we recommend keeping face coverings on at this time.

Note that there will be no refreshments served at the moment.

## Additional

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Please note that while people are arriving (between 10:15 and 10:30) the toilets will not be accessible.

The toilet in the choir vestry can be used during this time in an emergency.



Other areas of the building (corridor/vestry/upstairs/hall etc) will be closed. This reduces the amount of cleaning that needs undertaking by our volunteers.

## And Finally...

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If you are planning to attend face to face worship in the coming weeks, we look forward to seeing you soon. If you are unsure, have decided not to attend for the moment, or can't attend, please know that you continue to be in the thoughts and prayers of others, and phone and zoom worship opportunities will continue to be available.

***Gathered or Scattered, we are united by Christ  
Close to one another or far away, we are bound together by God's Spirit  
Excited or anxious, we are held in the arms of God's love,  
We are community, God's community, we are BRMC.***