

What to expect on Sundays

during September and October 2020

The prayerful decisions taken by the PCC regarding our return to gathered worship on Sundays are summarised here.

It is important that the church family realise that:

- This new pattern is for September and October only. We will review again towards the end of that period and make further changes.
- There is no 'ideal' solution as we re-gather due to the many ongoing restrictions on worship imposed by the Government.
- Whilst we realise that not everyone will feel comfortable about re-gathering on Sundays, we hope that most will do so, even if it involves sacrifice of some kind.
- Now that Sundays are returning to being our main time of connecting with one another, we will no longer be offering the Wednesdays@6pm services, we will also not be resuming the Thursday 10am Communion services as numbers attending pre-lockdown were very low.

On Sundays we will re-introduce the 9am and 10.30am services. The 6.30pm service will not restart yet, but we will continue to review this regularly. We are introducing a new fortnightly service called Explore@4.

9am on Sundays

What will feel the same?

At this service you will encounter familiar liturgy, organ music. The service will feel reflective and there will be a sermon.

What will feel different?

There won't be Communion every week. This will alternate between the 9am and 10.30am services. We won't be able to sing together but we will still listen to music and reflect on the words of hymns. We won't be using the service booklets, but there will be single-use service sheets each week. There won't be refreshments at the end of the service.

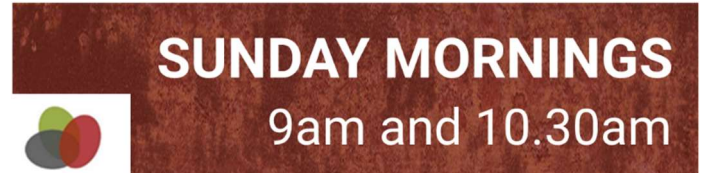
10.30am on Sundays

What will feel the same?

At this service you will encounter contemporary worship, times of reflection and be led in prayer in creative ways. The screens will be used for projecting the words and other media. We will work hard to engage all ages throughout the service.

What will feel different?

We are unfortunately not yet able to offer groups for our children and young people. All ages are very welcome to attend, but children will need to sit with their parents throughout and there will be no space set out with toys and books. We won't be able to sing together but the band can lead us in worship. There won't be refreshments at the end of the service.



Explore@4

We're excited to introduce a new service starting on September 6th. This will be held fortnightly from 4-5pm (6th and 20th September, 4th and 18th October). These services are aimed at those who would like to explore a Bible story/passage in informal, creative ways. We hope that Explore@4 will particularly appeal to families, but it is very much open to everyone.



What to expect at Explore@4

The church will be largely cleared of chairs (a few will be available for those who need them) and households will be invited to sit together as an 'island'. We will begin by coming into God's presence through band-led worship (not singing, yet) and we will hear a Bible story. We will then disperse into different zones to explore that Bible story using some questions as a prompt. Depending on your personality you might like to:

- Sit quietly and reflect individually on the Bible story.
- Use paper, pens, crayons and craft materials as you reflect on the Bible story.
- Listen to a short talk and engage in a group discussion about the Bible story.
- Occupy your busy fingers with lego (or similar) as you reflect on the Bible story.

We will return to our 'islands' to share with one another our personal reflections. We will then hear from some of the different groups, enabling us to learn from one another. We will end with a time of prayer and music.

Social distancing at Explore@4

This service has been planned to enable more than 60 people to attend safely by keeping people in their household groups. We have put together a risk assessment and various measures to ensure that our time together is as safe as possible. However, mixed age gatherings are not entirely predictable. We hope that most children will be able to understand the need for social distancing, but some won't, especially little ones and those with additional needs. If you are particularly anxious about maintaining social distancing, one of our other services might be the best one for you to attend.

Online worship on Sundays

We will continue to offer one service online each Sunday. This will be available at 9am, but can be accessed anytime after that. It will be led by one of the team who will use some liturgy and also give a short talk as part of the service.

Practicalities of gathered worship on Sundays

We have tried to answer some of the questions you might have about the practicalities of our gathered worship:

What will the layout be like? For the morning services the chairs will be spaced to allow for social distancing between households. The church building can accommodate up to 70 people at each service in this layout. For Explore@4 the layout will be as described above.

Do I have to wear a facemask? At the moment, yes. Everyone 11 years and over needs to wear a facemask in church, unless you are in an 'exempt' group (see below).

Do I have to book in advance? At the moment, no. We anticipate that the number of people wanting to attend the morning services will not exceed our capacity. As Explore@4 is new, we are unsure about how many people will want to come. We may need to review our booking policy after the first week or two.

Will my details be collected for Test and Trace? Yes. Whilst this is not a legal requirement for churches, we will collect details of those attending services, and they will be kept in accordance with our Test and Trace GDPR policy.

Will toilet facilities be available? Yes, the accessible toilet at the back of church will be open for those who need it.

Will cleaning take place between the 9am and 10.30am services? Some low-level cleaning of chair arms and door handles will take place between the morning services and more thorough cleaning will take place through the week.

Can I stay and chat afterwards? We hope that part of our re-gathering will be increased opportunities to connect meaningfully with one another. However, we are unable to offer refreshments at present, and so we will encourage people to leave the building promptly at the end of services. You are welcome to talk with others outside the building though!

What happens if there is a local lockdown? If Bristol is subject to a local lockdown we will follow all Government guidance at that time. It is likely that gathered worship would have to be suspended again for the duration of the local lockdown. In that situation it may be possible to provide more online content on Sundays again, but we would need to decide that at the time.

Joining together to pray through the week

Many of you have shared that you have really appreciated the daily Morning Prayer services online. As we adjust our pattern of collective prayer through the week, we hope that members of the church family will be eager to join us in person to pray, either regularly or from time to time. For those unable to do so there will still be two opportunities each week (on Mondays and Fridays) to access Morning Prayer online via our YouTube channel, led by a member of the team.

Monday: 9-9.45am (James Chapel) *praying specifically for our ministry amongst younger generations*
9-9.30am Morning Prayer live on YouTube

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday:

9-9.15am (James Chapel) *A short time of prayer to start the day*

Friday: 9-9.30am Morning Prayer live on YouTube

Saturday: 8.30-9.30am (Zoom) *praying for our church, the world and personal needs*
Meeting ID: **862 6798 8616** Passcode: **023132**

What about other church activities and using the church for private prayer?

Plans to resume non-service church activities are being formulated separately, this is likely to have to be on a case by case basis as each activity is different. We will keep bringing you news about activities re-starting as soon as we are able to.

The church building will continue to be open for prayer through the week. At times Church Hosts will be available to talk and pray with those who come. Occasionally the church will be used for a group activity or external booking so there may be times when there isn't public access into the building. Do check the sign outside church before coming in.

Thank you for reading this and for your ongoing support as we navigate these complex times. If you have other questions please do get in touch. We look forward to seeing you soon and hope that we can all reconnect as a church family over the coming weeks.

The small print!

People exempt from wearing facemasks in church:

- People who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability.
- People for whom putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause you severe distress.
- People speaking to or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expressions to communicate.
- People involved with leading church services.

What to expect at a Holy Communion Service:

Communion will alternate between the 9am and 10.30am services week by week. The distribution will happen in the same way at both services.

The Church of England has asked churches to follow these protocols:

- a) The bread (wafers) which will be received by the congregation will be covered with a cloth during the Eucharistic Prayer so that the minister is not speaking over them.
- b) The minister will use hand sanitizer before and after distributing the bread.
- c) The congregation will receive only the bread (this is called 'receiving in one kind only' and it is still 'full' Communion). The minister will receive both the bread and wine.
- d) Communicants are encouraged to use their own hand sanitizer before receiving the bread. The minister will gently drop the wafer into the hand of the person receiving, to avoid hand to hand contact. This will be done without words to avoid speaking in close proximity to one another.
- e) Due care will be given to the cleaning of the chalice and paten.

In order to maintain social distancing, when we distribute Communion we will invite everyone who wishes to receive to stand in their places and the minister (wearing a facemask) will come around and distribute the bread to those who would like it. We will then all eat the bread at the same time as a unifying act when the minister says the words 'The body of Christ broken for us'.