

Gathering at Brickfields during a pandemic

Gathering at Brickfields during a pandemic may sound simple, but there are a fair few things we have to be safe.

We're all in this together

No one wants to be heavy-handed, and our hope is that these written guidelines will keep us safe and within the law. If a steward instructs you to do or stop something, please comply; they are acting to keep us safe.

The following guidelines are based upon the law and government guidance to places of worship. We have not added to this to make everyone's lives simpler, but it does mean that we need to treat these rules as non-negotiable.

Should you attend?

Please do not attend if you currently have (or think you have) any symptoms of coronavirus, if you are self-isolating, quarantining or living with someone who is self-isolating and/or quarantining and/or is vulnerable.

Our COVID-secure guidelines

- Please wear a mask or face covering at all times *inside* Brickfields unless you have an exemption.
- Please avoid social interaction *inside* Brickfields. Even starting up a conversation or even saying 'Hello' as you walk to your seat falls under the category of social interaction.
- Please maintain social distancing between households at all times (1m+ with masks, 2m without masks).
- Please do not sing, hum or speak along with any song and avoid worshipping so vigorously that it leads to heavy breathing and sweating.
- Clean your hands using hand sanitiser when entering and leaving the building and avoid touching door handles or other surfaces as much as possible.
- Avoid touching your face (wash your hands if you do so accidentally) and use the crook of your elbow to avoid coughing or sneezing towards other people.

So what can I do?

We are committed to celebrating what we can do while recognising the frustration that accompanies these restrictions. So here are some things that we recommend you can do:

- Wave at members of another household.
- Smile at people (behind your mask) and rapidly move your eyebrows to acknowledge them.
- Express your worship through your body while remaining by your seat. Stand, kneel, raise your hands, clap along, tap your foot, try out a little mini jive on the spot. And remember: if you sing in your head, you are never out of tune!
- Join in with the responses in the communion liturgy.
- Chat with people outside in the car park in socially-distanced groups of six.
- Thank God for the chance to be worshipping with other people in the same room

What to expect

1. You will arrive at Brickfields as per usual, and make your way to the foyer keeping yourself socially distanced at all times (1m+ with a mask, 2m without a mask).
2. You will put on your mask as you enter the foyer and will use the hand sanitiser. If you have the NHS app, you can scan the QR code as you enter Brickfields.
3. All the chairs will be arranged in pairs with a 1m+ distance between each pair. Please make your way to a vacant pair of chairs. If your household size is larger than 2 people and you need to sit together, then please let a steward know who will help move the chairs.
4. Once you are at your seat, please remain there until the end of the service, unless you need to go to the toilet.
5. There will be a self-serve communion package and a song book under your chair.
6. During the sung worship, feel free to pick up the song book and read along with the words. Please refrain from singing, humming or speaking along with the song. You are permitted to stand, kneel and raise your hands.
7. During the sermon, please be seated.
8. During communion, please be seated and use the self-serve communion package under your chair. You are permitted to speak to along with the liturgy responses.
9. During the prayers, please be seated.
10. At the end of the service, please place the songbook under your chair and place the communion package in the bin as you leave the building.
11. Please maintain social distancing as you leave the building. You can either leave or chat in socially-distanced groups of 6 in the car park.

Children

- We are delighted that all ages can join us at Brickfields. If you are a parent, we ask that you are responsible for supervising them at all times and ensuring that they remain in your allocated space (either standing in front of their seat, in their seat, or sitting beside it).
- Please note that there are currently no ancillary rooms or sofas on hand if you need to move a child.

Toilets

- We are currently using the downstairs toilets only. Please sanitise your hands before and after you leave the toilet using the sanitizer outside the room.
- Only one person/household can use the toilet at a time.

Track and trace

- We are required by law to record the names and contact details of everyone who attends an in-person gathering and to keep this information for 21 days to enable contact tracing by the NHS if necessary.
- You can also scan the QR code on arrival using the NHS app if you would like. (You can download it [here](#)).