

Update on transitioning out of lockdown – 28.4.2021

As lockdown eases, the government has published a new set of regulations relating to churches.

The key changes are as follows

- Children and youth work can resume in person from now.
- The 50-cap for services has been removed.
- Numbers able to attend services will now be determined by 2m physical distancing capacity.
- Face masks remain a legal requirement and singing is not yet permitted.

What will the changes mean for Sundays?

Sundays 2 May (this Sunday) and 9 May

- **The 9.30 service with children and youth work resumes.**
- **This Sunday, 2 May is Week A**, which means **Creche**, **Little Stars** and **Sparklers** meeting in the building. Creche will also resume at the 11.30am service. Sunday Club and Youth Church will be on Zoom, returning to the building on 9 May as part of Week B.
- There will be 4 services on a Sunday at 9.30am, 11.30am, 4.30pm and 6.30pm.
- **Sunday prayer meetings** will be at 9am and 5.30pm, continuing on Zoom.
- The 9.30, 11.30 and 6.30 services will be live-streamed on Zoom and YouTube. Zoom break-out groups will follow these services.
- Apart from these changes, everything else will be in line with current arrangements.

From Sunday 16 May

- The removal of the 50-cap, along with new guidance on calculating social distancing, means that **going forward the number of people permitted to attend a service will increase significantly**. We are currently working out what the new numbers will be, which will take a bit of time.
- The plan is to **move to increased numbers from Sunday 16 May**. It is likely that people will be asked to stick with their current fortnightly service slot, with an additional service time added on the alternate week. We hope that lots of people will be able to come to church in person weekly.
- **One of the four Sunday services will be kept at a lower number.**
- Looking ahead to 16 May, **extra cleaners** will be required (12 in total). Please contact Naomi if you are able to help. Close to 100 people are involved, doing a little bit each, sharing the load and serving the church family.

What will the changes mean for midweek activities?

- **Cord and Focus** have resumed on site.
- **House Group** continue on Zoom, though future expected changes in household rules may make it possible to meet in person.
- **Baby & Toddlers** will begin shortly.
- **Walking Group** has recommenced.
- **Impact** will resume in the building on Friday 21 May (alternative arrangements before then).
- **MAP in person teaching / training** will resume in the building after 17 May.

Communication

- An **email will be sent to you next week** (probably on Thursday 6 May) explaining how things will work from 16 May.
- Also, there will be a **short update following the 6.30 service on 9 May**.

Looking to the interests of others and loving one another in these challenging times

The easing of lockdown is not simple. The process of coming back together in person as a church family will take time, listening, love and patience. Chalmers is made up of 350 individuals. Everyone has different needs / different circumstances.

Careful planning and communication will be important. Please pray for Naomi and others involved. Most important of all, is the unifying power of God's Word, preached on Sundays, studied in small groups and taught to the children. The Word of God at work in us creates humility, so that each of us looks not only to our own interests, but also to the interests of others (Phil. 2:1-11). Moreover, the Word of God equips us to speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:1-16). We can have sure confidence that the Lord Jesus will shepherd us through the weeks and months ahead, as we prayerfully express out dependence on Him.

Robin (on behalf of the Elders)