



Twinned with the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone

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Dear friends,

Following this evening's government briefing we can begin to return to normality from **Monday 19th April**.

For us this means the following:

- Churches can resume normal activities, bookings etc. from Monday subject to the checks below having been carried out.
- Public worship can recommence from **Sunday April 25th** with the proviso that where individual churches choose to delay by one week this is acceptable. There are a number of churches with CPs on April 25th who may find it necessary to delay by a week. If you have a preacher planned for April 25th and choose not to meet you must let the preacher and your minister know.
- The provision of hand sanitiser at all entrances is still required.
- Space should be allocated, where possible, for anyone who wants to attend but maintain social distancing.

There will still be some who cannot attend for various reasons and, therefore, we will be maintaining our online presence for the time being.

No building can be reopened for any purpose until the following checks have been completed.

1. All safety certificates must be up to date for such things as fire, electricity and pat testing. If these have lapsed during lockdown they will need to be done before opening can be allowed.
2. Whilst there is no longer a requirement for professional cleaning, it is of course important that buildings that have been closed up for some time are properly aired and cleaned before reopening.
3. Hand sanitizer must be made available at all entrances to the building and it will be necessary to make space available for anyone who still wishes to social distance whilst in worship.
4. Singing will be permitted.
5. Hand sanitiser and anti-bacterial wipes/sprays must be provided in all toilet facilities.
6. Coffee/refreshments will be permitted after service, and indeed encouraged, to enable people to mix and chat.
7. Because of the possibility of legionnaires disease being present in water systems that have been shut down during the lockdown, all taps should be run once for twenty minutes to eliminate this risk unless they are fed directly from the mains, in which case running for a couple of minutes is sufficient.

As the Methodist Church in the Isle of Man
we are called to love and serve in response to God's love in Jesus.

Pastoral visiting.

Pastoral visits can now resume, however, please ring the person you intend to visit beforehand, in order to ascertain that they are happy to receive a visit.

With regard to lettings and other functions on church premises:

These can recommence from **April 19th** so long as your minister has been informed that the above requirements have been met.

In addition to the requirements above, where the event is an outside letting, it will be necessary to have an undertaking from the person responsible for the letting that they will follow government guidance in terms of hand hygiene etc as described above.

None of the above means that chapels have to reopen their doors.

Where people wish to be more cautious, reopening can be delayed until they feel comfortable to do this.

Yours,



Richard Hall

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