

Risk Assessment compiled and carried out on behalf of the charity directors by:

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RISK CATEGORY	WHEN?	WHERE?	MEASURES TAKEN
<p>Potential of Infection with COVID 19 during public worship</p>	<p>The risk assessment is based on the Guidelines and Documentation issued by the NI Executive on 26th June 2020</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anyone showing symptoms of COVID 19 (high temperature, persistent cough, loss of smell / taste and shortness of breath), cold or flu like symptoms <u>MUST NOT ATTEND</u> church but remain at home in immediate self-isolation with the other members of their family. - Anyone advised to shield at home <u>MUST NOT ATTEND</u> church for the full recommended period of self-isolation, regardless of whether they show symptoms or not. - Those who are clinically vulnerable <u>MUST</u> continue to shield at home. Those over 70 years old or with other serious underlying health conditions are advised to minimise social contact as much as possible using careful social distancing. - “There is no regulatory requirement for organisations to keep detailed records of attendance for contact tracing purposes. However, these details would be helpful in assisting contacting tracing in the event of an outbreak within a place of worship.” <p>Proposed Services:</p> <p>Sunday - 11.00 am - a shorter service, similar to what has been available online. This will include mostly adults with the exception of those who still need to shield. (see the above guidelines)</p> <p>Sunday - 3.00 pm - a Sunday School / Youth type of service (40/45 min) for youth, children and families. According to the government guidelines ... “severe disease in children is rare. Children are also likely to be somewhat less susceptible to the virus and somewhat less likely to transmit it when infected, particularly in the case of children under 11. However, caution is advised when undertaking youth work involving considerable amount of physical activity.” According to government guidelines where possible and when the weather permits, we could organise outside gatherings (e.g. Wallace Park) for 30 people at one time. This could be a potential option for our Children and Youth Ministry.</p>

RISK CATEGORY	WHEN?	WHERE?	MEASURES TAKEN
	Arriving at church	Car Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A member of the Welcome Team, identified by the high visibility vest, will direct traffic in the car park ensuring people park safely within the social distancing rules of 1 m to 2 m. - Social distancing will be maintained in car park as people, as people approach the front door and prepare for entering the building.
		Door handles and hard surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Doors are to remain open at all times, reducing any contact people might have with door handles or hard surfaces. - Tables and literature placed in the church foyer and throughout the church have been removed. - Premises, including handles and all hard surfaces will be sanitised before church services. - Posters reminding people of social distancing have been placed throughout the building. - A member of the Welcoming Team, easily identified by high visibility vest, will coordinate people arriving and entering the building, ensuring social distancing.
		Front door	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upon arrival, everyone will be asked to use the sanitiser provided by a Welcome Team member or from a stand free sanitiser, operated by foot. - There will be no hand shaking or hugs. :(- Masks will be provided unless those attending will have their own home made masks. An excess of 500 masks are available for our use. - Everyone will also be encouraged to bring their own hand sanitisers and paper tissues. - Small bins will be provided throughout the main sanctuary for disposing of paper tissues. - A temperature gun may also be used for the safety of all those attending.
		Being seated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Once people have used the sanitiser, another member of the Welcome Team will show them to their seats. - The seating will be set up in order to facilitates families or social bubble (who do not need social distancing among themselves) in rows of 6 or 4. - When one single individual or groups of two are seated, the next chair or two will be marked as unavailable using visible cards, in order to provide social distancing.

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	During the service	Toilet Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Toilets have been sanitised and are fit for use. - The use of toilets will be made one person at the time. This has been clearly displayed by posters, on the entry doors. - The main door of the toilet (where possible) will remain open. - The handle of the disabled toilet is to be wiped after every use. Antibacterial wipes will be available inside cubicles and the disabled toilet. - Everyone will be asked to wipe the toilet seat with the wipes provided and discard them in the bin, <u>NOT THE TOILET.</u> - Posters clearly display the need to wash hands more than 20 second. - The electric hand dryers have been disabled and dispensers with paper towels will be installed. The cotton towels have been removed.
		Singing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Singing is not prohibited by the Government Guidelines but the congregation will be encouraged to use the time to reflect, worship using their body language, or to sing softly. - One vocal singer, accompanied by others playing instruments, can lead the congregation into a time of prayer, reflection and quiet worship.
		Offering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The offering plate cannot be passed around, therefore the congregation will be encouraged to bring their offerings during the service to one location (front or back of the church) as an act of worship. - The Financial Team responsible for lodging the offerings will handle the offerings with gloves and masks, using sanitiser for their own safety.
		Communion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The elements of communion cannot be passed around. The only option would be to encourage families to bring their own elements to communion. This is very much a practice of the early church in the book of Acts where people brought them from home.
		Air Ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The guidelines recommends that premises be well ventilated. This would help the prevention of infection. Therefore, windows and doors will be left open for ventilation, before, during and after the church service.

RISK CATEGORY	WHEN?	WHERE?	MEASURES TAKEN
	Leaving the premises	Using Door Handles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leaving the church service will be a coordinated activity. People will be asked to leave in families or social bubbles. - Multiples exists will be used. - Everyone will be asked to use the sanitiser provided in order to eliminate the risk of infection while leaving.
	After the service	General cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Once the service is finished all hard surfaces will be sanitised. - The 72 hours rule will be applied in order to prevent potential infection.
	Overflow	Church Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In case there are too many people attending an overflow will be facilitated in the hall with an audio feed. - The overflow will follow the same guidelines for social distancing and sanitisation. - A phone booking system will be implemented in order to facilitate everyone. The main sanctuary will operate at 85% capacity after the social distancing measures have been applied, in order to facilitate visitors. - All services will continue to be streamed online.

Risk assessment presented to Elders, Deacons and Directors

Tuesday - 30th June 2020 - 7.00 pm

THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED:

1. Online ministry to continue without any changes until the end of July when shielding for those over 70 is expected to end.
2. Reopening the church this Sunday with the measures covered in the Risk Assessment.
3. A gradual approach to be implemented based around gathers of different age groups, small groups or families and social bubbles. IN THIS CASE A SPECIFIC TIMELINE AND PROCESS MUST BE AGREED ON.
4. Continue with the online ministry until a later date in August or even September
5. **Final considerations:** social distancing will be most likely a requirement for the rest of 2020.
6. The Welcome Team needs to be reformed and trained for reopening.
 - One person to guide people outside, preparing to enter the building, maintaining social distance.
 - One person to operate the Sanitisers on both entries / exits
 - At least two Ushers to show people to their seats and display the cards for social distancing.

NOTE:

Following the meeting which involved the Charity Directors, the church elders and deacons, the decision was made to officially open the church for services as follows:

1. Prayer Meeting will commence from Wednesday 8th July 2020 in the main sanctuary following the measures presented in the Risk Assessment.
2. Sunday Services will commence on Sunday 2nd August 2020 as follows:
 - 1.1. Morning service: 11.00 am for adults
 - 1.2. Afternoon service: 3.00 pm for Youth, Children and their families.
 - 1.3. Note: the phone booking system will be available and the church members will be encouraged to choose one of the two services. We have the option of creating a third service as and when it is necessary.
3. During the month of July, those who are struggling and are in need of immediate support are encouraged to phone pastor Nick or Nathan and they will be invited to join them during the live stream on the church premises.
4. A letter will be sent to all church members and attendees. The pastoral team will also produce a video explaining our approach to the reopening and also the safety measures that must be implemented.