

NCF Information Sheet on Covid-19

30th June 2020

Hello everyone,

The last time we met together in our building on Pallett Drive was on 15th March. Many of us have been able to meet on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings to pray and to worship using Zoom. Quite a few haven't been able to do this. If you're receiving this sheet you would have been receiving our twice monthly Onward Newsletter - either as a paper copy or as part of the weekly Tuesday email.

Many that are reading this have gone through very trying times over the past three months. We know that the end of this Lock-down isn't happening yet, but the government announced on 23rd June that we could start to meet together again. This document will let you know what we will probably be doing over the next three months to enable this to happen, depending on the most recent advice received from Westminster and Elim headquarters in Malvern.

We want to return to using our building as soon as possible, but we want to do this safely. To this end, Colin Blake and I undertook a Risk Assessment of the building on 18th June. This was submitted to Elim HQ on 24th June. Let me know if you would like a copy of this.



We stopped meeting together very abruptly, but we will return extremely gradually. The plan at the moment is to start to meet together in groups of up to ten people. These will be mid-week Services where people will be invited to attend. Attached to this sheet you will find a short questionnaire to help facilitate this. Singing is one of the ways we give our worship to God and for learning truths from the Bible. The government has said that groups of people in places of worship can not sing. This means that we will continue meeting on Zoom on a Sunday morning for the foreseeable future - at least until September. As things change so I will make sure I let you know swiftly and fully.

Summary

- ♦ NCF *will not* be opening for normal public worship for several more months.
- ♦ We *will* be inviting groups of up to ten people to gather in our building to give their spoken worship, to pray and to learn from the Bible.
- ♦ Our Sunday morning Zoom Meetings will continue at least until September.

When you come into our building you will see that there are lots of bright notices! These summarise what is described in this sheet. They might seem very prescriptive and dictatorial, but they are to keep you and others safe in our building. Please endeavour to follow them.

Updated Information Sheets will be distributed as further information needs to be circulated. Many thousands of other churches large and small are going through this same process. The inside of our building has been changed for now. We can use this time to allow God to change us personally too. We can use this time to not just return individually and collectively as we were several months ago, but better for the time we have been physically away. Let's pray for each other that this will happen!



Here are some of the things that are most important for you to be aware of at the moment:

Face Masks: you do not need to wear these to come and worship with us. However, if you want to then that is fine.

Cleaning station: please clean your hands with the sanitizer in the foyer.

Signing in: please sign in at the other table in the foyer. This is to help us track and trace people that enter the building if that is ever necessary.

One-way system: everyone will need to come in through the front door. If you have arrived in a car, please exit using the back door. If you have walked to get here, then turn right after exiting through the old kitchen.

Chairs: all of the upholstered chairs have been taken out of the Main Hall and have been replaced with the new plastic ones that were recently put in the Small Hall. These will be much easier to clean over the coming weeks. If comfort is important to you then please bring a cushion, making sure you take it home with you when you leave. We are still following the two metres apart from each other rule. The maximum number of chairs we can have in the Main Hall is 14. Please don't add extra chairs to what is already there. We might start using the Small Hall (with the sliding doors right back) to increase capacity in the coming months. Any changes or refinements to this will always be quickly communicated to you.

Bibles: these have been covered up. Please bring your own Bible, as the church ones can't be used in the near future.

Barbara's Bookstall: unfortunately this isn't open at the moment. You will notice that this too is covered up.

Onward Newsletter: there are no pamphlets, newsletters or magazines in the carousel in the foyer. Our twice monthly Newsletter will continued to be delivered to your home.

Light Switches: the person who opens the building will turn on all the lights. Please don't turn any of them off.

Doors: most internal doors will be propped back. Please leave them like that.

Not in use: four of our rooms have been cordoned off. Please don't use them - the Prayer Room, the Lounge, the Office and the Kitchen. Also the corridor from the Lounge to the double doors of the Small Hall is not now in use. There is a barrier there to remind you about this.



Refreshments: as the kitchen is not being used for the next few weeks, please bring your own drinks (whether hot or cold).

Toilets: it would be best if you didn't use them at the moment. If you do, please use the antibacterial wipes to clean all the surfaces you have touched. One of the cubicles in the Ladies will be cordoned off, with the urinals in the Gents being out of use too.

Air-conditioning: this will not be used in the coming weeks. Instead, the windows in the Main Hall and Small Hall will be open to create some circulation in the air.

Taps: I have been running the taps and toilets once a week to lessen the risk of Legionella.

Personal Contact: it's natural for most people to want to shake hands or exchange a hug. Please continue to refrain from doing this.

Mid-week Services: these might happen once or twice a week. They would last around 45 minutes, having hymns to read, prayers to speak, a Bible reading, a short message and plenty of friendly faces. Initially they would be by invitation only to ensure that we don't have to turn people away if we meet our maximum number. If you think I haven't invited someone who should have been invited, please let me know as soon as possible so that



this can be rectified. At the moment the idea would be to have a similar Service several times over a two to three week period and then another new Service after that. I might lead most of them, but I would ask other people to lead them too. Our Thursday morning Prayer Meeting on Zoom is going to hibernate from 2nd July to allow this to happen.

Offering: we will not be using the normal offering bag for the foreseeable future. I am still looking for a wooden or plastic alternative. Have you any ideas? If it is possible for you to use online banking that that would be excellent. If you wish to give anonymously, you can put cash into an envelope and give it to me directly. I will then put it into the church safe without opening it. The treasurer will then open it without knowing who gave the gift. Cheques can still be sent to Yorkshire Bank in Nuneaton. Please include a covering note with the cheque, explaining you want it to be paid into Nuneaton Christian Fellowship's account, stating the Sort Code (05-06-43) and Account Number (4177 1833) too.

Communion: we will still be taking Communion together periodically, just as we have been doing on Zoom. These will be announced ahead of time, so that you can bring your own elements of bread and wine.

Community Groups: some Community Groups will return to using our building quite quickly - dependent on the latest advice we have. These will need to follow all of this guidance and in some cases will need to produce their own Risk Assessment to make sure that everyone who uses our building is safe.

I know that together we have a great future as we put God at the centre of how we pray, worship and serve others.

If you want to comment on any of this I'd love to hear from you. Send me a letter, a text, an email or fill in the Questionnaire.

John Stephenson

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Could you help me by replying to the following questions please?

Name:

Would you like to attend a mid-week Service?

Yes No Not yet - I'll contact you in a few weeks when I think it is safe

If so, what is the best time of the week for you (please tick the best two options):

Monday 11.00am Monday 2.30pm

Tuesday 11.00am

Thursday 11.00am Thursday 3.30pm

Which is the best way to contact you to give you an Invitation?

Would you like to gather with anyone that is special to you?

Name(s):

Could I invite someone else to a mid-week Service on your behalf?

Name:

Best way to make contact with them:

What have you missed the most about not being able to come to NCF for over three months?

Is there anything I can help you with at the moment?

Use the other side of this sheet to express anything else you want to say.

You can pop your answers through the letterbox at church, through my home letterbox or let me know if you'd like me to pick it up from you. Many thanks.

John

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