

Supplementary Risk Assessment for Rivington Chapel, Rivington, Lancashire

This supplement is to cover the additional requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic whilst the Chapel is open for Sunday services and other religious purposes excluding rites of passage. This covers the situation following the introduction of step three of the Government's roadmap due to commence on Monday 17 May 2021.

Produced by: Peter Bearon (secretary and acting treasurer to the chapel trustees)

Approved by: on behalf of the Rivington Chapel Trustees

Date of approval: 15/05/2021 [Peter Bearon]

Approved by: on behalf of the Rivington Chapel Congregational Committee

Date of approval: 15/05/2021 [Alison Whitaker]

This is based on Government Guidance for Places of Worship issued 14 May 2021, the latest available at the time of creating this risk assessment.

Separate risk assessments have previously been produced for the use of the Chapel for small meetings and rites of passage which will also be updated in light of the latest guidance.

Date of next assessment: when COVID-19 guidance changes.

List of significant hazards in the Chapel and Grounds	List the people who are at risk from the hazard (including the disabled, the elderly or young children)	Evaluate the risk (High/Medium/Low) Decide what is being done / can be done to reduce or remove the risk.
Inside the Chapel whilst open for Services		
Risk of transmission of COVID-19 by it being present on surfaces within the Chapel	All	<p>Medium Risk: Hand sanitiser will be available on entry and exit from the Chapel.</p> <p>If the Chapel has been used within 48 hours of the service, then all surfaces in public areas should be wiped down including the organ keyboard.</p> <p>Hymnbooks and soft furnishings etc. may be used provided that they are left in place and not touched by another person for at least 48 hours. Where this is not possible, they should be removed. In this instance, any service materials provided must be removed by the person using them and disposed of appropriately.</p> <p>No food or drink is to be allowed inside the Chapel at any time.</p>
Risk of transmission of COVID-19 from individuals who are suffering from, or carrying the virus	All	<p>Medium: Anyone accessing the Chapel must maintain social distancing as required by the government guidelines.</p> <p>Before the start of each service the congregation should be reminded of the COVID-19 measures in place.</p> <p>It is still a requirement by law that all attending services within the Chapel must wear a face covering unless they are medically exempt. An exception to this is for those leading services. Those</p>

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		<p>who assist in the service (for instance by reading, preaching, or leading prayers) do not need to wear a face covering when they are speaking.</p> <p>Whilst inside the building, the 'rule of 6' must be adhered to. This means that up to six people from different households can mingle, or more than six from up to two households. However, within these groups, social distancing should be maintained between households. As most people will be wearing face coverings, social distancing can be 1 metre plus. Anyone not using a face covering because they are exempt or because they are leading the service, should still maintain a distance of 2 metres from other households. [See note 1]</p> <p>It is probably unnecessary to leave alternate pews empty, provided that individuals observe the social distancing requirements between themselves/their household and anyone else near them (including those in adjacent pews).</p> <p>It is difficult to ventilate the Chapel when the main doors are closed, so it is essential that social distancing is maintained during the service, as the likelihood of transmission increases indoors, especially in unventilated areas.</p>

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		<p>Although there is no maximum stipulated on how many people can attend services, social distancing rules will effectively limit the number.</p> <p>At the end of services, everyone should be encouraged to move outside as quickly as possible where groups of up to 30 are permitted (see below).</p> <p>To ensure as much ventilation as possible, it would be best if both Chapel doors were opened before and after the services.</p> <p>There must still be no congregational singing at any time inside the building.</p> <p>It is permissible to use instrumental music during services. Both professional and amateur groups may sing during the service but must keep to the usual social distancing rules and mitigate against aerosol transmission where possible. Any number of professional singers may perform inside the building and up to six amateur singers.</p> <p>A record should be taken of all visitors to the Chapel which should be kept for 21 days for COVID-19 Track & Trace purposes. A QR code should be made available for anyone who wishes to use the NHS Track & Trace app. [see note 2]</p>

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		<p>Given the small and intimate nature of the Chapel, it is not considered that signage to help maintain social distance is necessary. However, it is incumbent on Committee members to ensure that all such measures are explained and adhered to.</p> <p>Cash donations are discouraged, However, if a collection is taken, cash should be collected in a receptacle that is set in one place and handled by one individual, as opposed to being passed around. Regular cleaning and hygiene should be maintained, and gloves worn to handle cash offerings where giving continues.</p> <p>The previous guidance on one-way systems is no longer in place. However, if the Tea Room are operating one, it would seem sensible to approach the Chapel in the same direction as the signage they have in place.</p> <p>Even if only one door is being used into and out of the Chapel, then social distancing must still be observed. People should not stand in the doorway or in the aisles between the pews for any longer than necessary to enter/leave the building.</p>

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Outside the Chapel whilst open for Services		
Risk of transmission of COVID-19 by it being present on surfaces	All	Low: The gates should be left open so that members of the public do not need to touch them.
Risk of transmission of COVID-19 from individuals who are suffering from, or carrying the virus	All	<p>Low:</p> <p>Anyone using the Chapel grounds, whether for accessing the Chapel or for other purposes, should maintain social distancing as required by the current government guidelines.</p> <p>If the Tea Room has a one-way system in place, then this should be observed by those attending the Chapel for services.</p> <p>Outside the Chapel, social distancing guidelines mean that up to 30 people may mingle in a group. However, within these groups, social distancing should be maintained between households.</p> <p>It is permitted to sing communal hymns outside the Chapel in groups of up to 30 people. If singing does take place outside, it is essential that households stand well apart and do not face each other to mitigate against aerosol transmission.</p>

Notes to the Supplementary Risk Assessment:

1. The government guidance on social distancing is still 2 metres (or 1 metre plus) between households. However, this is not an instruction and the emphasis is shifting away from government guidance to personal responsibility. So instead of instructions to stay 2m apart away from anyone you do not live with, we are encouraged to exercise caution and consider the risks. Given the nature of services in Chapel where we have an unventilated building and the congregation will be sitting still within in the pews for the duration of the service, following the guidelines remains appropriate.
2. As most people at the services will be regular attenders, it will only be necessary to make a note of who is present. This can be done by the treasurer or other member of the committee. For any visitors, a QR Code has been generated for the Chapel, and this should be made available for people to 'check in' using the NHS Test & Trace App. Alternatively, the government have provided a template to collect the details from visitors to services and this should be used if necessary. Any data collected must be destroyed after 21 days to comply with GDPR.