

Covenant of Care of the people called Methodists
In the Salisbury Society
For Worship during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Whenever we come to Worship, we come first and foremost for God.

We gather not for our own gratification, but for transformative encounter with the Living God.

Therefore we come for the sake of one another just as much as for ourselves. We seek to recognise Christ in others and to be Christ for them. The act of attending Worship is an act of community and of care and every time we walk through the church doors we are committing to a covenant with one another in the sight of God.

During the global COVID-19 Pandemic we need more than ever to act with uncompromising care for one another. We have learned again for ourselves what Scripture tells us: that we belong to one another. To keep ourselves safe, we must also keep others safe; and that by keeping others safe, we will also keep ourselves safe.

“...we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.”

Romans 12: 5

“If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.”

1 Corinthians 12: 26

The UK Government is also telling us:

“People should act in a safe and responsible way in order to reduce the spread of infection in our communities.”

(UK Government)

As Church we are called to be Christ to the community we serve here in Salisbury, and that means making sacrifices for the safety and wellbeing of one another and of the wider community in Salisbury.

For this reason we are making explicit some of the practical actions demanded by the Covenant of Care we all share when we enter the SMC Building.

By attending Worship we are each committing to:

- Sanitising our hands on arrival and departure, and any time we cough, sneeze or touch our faces;
- Observing 2 metre social distancing at all times (refraining from hugging, handshaking and other physical contact);
- “taking particular care to minimise contact with others outside of our household” according to Government advice;
- Wearing a face covering, unless we have a valid exemption for health reasons;
- Catching coughs and sneezes in a tissue (which we will take home or dispose of in a bin as we leave) or in the crook of a sleeved arm;
- Following promptly the instructions of the stewards who are ensuring the safety of all;
- Leaving the building promptly at the end of worship, when requested to do so by the stewards;
- Not entering areas of the building that are presently sealed off in order to limit transmission of infection;
- Not lingering for conversation inside or outside of the building.

By attending Worship we are deemed to commit ourselves to this binding Covenant. Stewards may remind us of the commitment we have made if necessary.

With God’s help we will keep this Covenant of Care

“Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ,
who strengthens us.”

Methodist Worship Book: Covenant Service