



## WIRRAL CIRCUIT GUIDELINES FOR CHURCHES

### CORONA VIRUS

- ❖ Practise good hygiene – use hand gel with 60%+ alcohol content and always wash hands thoroughly.
- ❖ At communion only one person should handle bread. Cups may be offered or people may take their own from the tray. If disposable cups are used please ensure that disposal is properly done, if glass cups are used then please use a dish washer.
- ❖ Handshakes, hugs and kisses are not encouraged but as we are also about pastoral care and friendship, if someone wants to shake a hand and the recipient doesn't object then go ahead. Be sensible and respect other people's feelings.
- ❖ If you are unwell then please stay at home. There are some things we don't share no matter how much we love one another.
- ❖ If anyone is self – isolating please make sure your minister knows and your pastoral leader so that any support needed can be provided.
- ❖ If anyone – preacher or congregation- feels they are vulnerable and wishes to absent themselves from worship temporarily then that is fine.
- ❖ The circuit staff are planning to prepare some acts of worship that can be posted on the circuit website for those who cannot, or do not wish to come to church.
- ❖ At present the Methodist Church is following government guidance. The WHO website is also useful.
- ❖ Be sensible. Be sensitive and please do not panic.

From the Superintendent Minister

Date: 11.3.20

Updated 13.3.20

*(Continued on next page)*

Words in blue are taken from the Methodist Church Guidelines for Corona Virus

- ❖ Older members and those with medical conditions causing weaker health and greater vulnerability should not attend church for the time being. This is an act of mutual care and concern, and is not a desire that people 'give up' Church.
- ❖ If you are not an older member and don't have underlying health conditions, but are feeling ill and/or displaying the symptoms of a cold, please consider staying away from the service.
- ❖ The glasses of communion wine should be offered for people to take their own cup.
- ❖ It is probably a good time to remind Communion Stewards that communion wine once poured out should never be returned to the bottle to be reused later. Any remaining elements should be reverently consumed or put to ground.
- ❖ Ministers (preachers and leaders of worship) should refrain from shaking hands with people as they leave.
- ❖ Churches may want to consider carrying out pastoral 'visits' by phone. In any case it may be worth calling the person you are due to visit to check they are comfortable with you being there. Now is a good time to be thinking proactively about who in the Church might need extra help should they decide or be required to self-isolate. Is there the need to create a plan for shopping for more vulnerable members of the community for example?
- ❖ Remember that many people are anxious and a reassuring phone call and an offer to pray might be very much appreciated.
- ❖ For Churches holding Lent lunches please ensure that very stringent hygiene is practised.
- ❖ Any local preacher or minister who wishes to absent themselves from public worship is asked to let both Heather Cooper & Veronica Frances know.
- ❖ Church stewards who decide to close public worship due to the make-up of the congregation is free to do so, again please advise Heather and Veronica.
- ❖ We will keep an eye on the situation and may consider merging some services to minimise the number of preachers required and the fact that some churches will wish to close.