

CHESTER QUAKER MEETING - RESUMPTION OF ACTUAL MEETING FOR WORSHIP FROM 23 AUGUST 2020

Following discussion at Local Business Meeting on 9 August, we will be resuming actual Meeting for Worship , for those who wish to meet in person ,from Sunday 23 August.

We have made a decision to temporarily move our actual worship to St Mary's Handbridge Centre as the risk assessments indicate several advantages including a greater number of Friends who can attend and a range of safety features.

Meetings will commence at 10.30 am and end at 11.30 am. St Mary's Handbridge Centre is located in Overleigh Road, Handbridge, CH4 7HL.

Unfortunately, you will not be able to use the St Mary's car park, but street parking is available close to the centre.

There will be some significant temporary changes to how we meet together and details of these are contained in the guidance note below. It is important that you familiarise yourself with these changes before attending Meeting. In particular please note the following:

- We will be operating a booking system (please see details below)
- You will be required to wear a face mask at all times (unless exempt)
- No refreshments will be provided and you should bring your own drink
- There will be no indoor socialising before or after Meeting
- You must maintain social distancing at all times

We are not sure how long these temporary arrangements will apply but if you have any queries or require further information, please contact Mike Wyatt (07703438401, email debmikewyatt@gmail.com).

Guidance note on resuming Sunday morning Quaker Worship safely at St Mary's Handbridge Centre

1. Introduction

The safety of everybody attending Meeting for Worship is of paramount importance to trustees and all role-holders. In order to safely resume Sunday morning worship during the present Covid-19 situation, we have decided to utilise St Mary's Handbridge Centre as a temporary venue for Meeting for Worship because this will allow more Friends to attend in a safe way. The Centre is located behind St Mary's Church in Overleigh Road, Handbridge, CH4 7HL. The car park there is for the sole use of the church's own congregation, but street parking is available close to the Centre.

Meetings will continue to take place between 10.30 am and 11.30am every Sunday. There will be no midweek Meetings for Worship for the foreseeable future.

We will be introducing some fairly significant temporary changes, and it is important that you read and understand these changes before coming to Meeting.

If you, or anyone with whom you have recently been in contact, are showing any of the symptoms of Covid-19, please follow the appropriate government advice and do not attend Meeting. Similarly, if you are identified as being in a vulnerable group or are shielding, you should follow the relevant government guidance and only attend Meeting if it is safe for you to do so.

If you become ill during, or on the way to, Meeting, you will be asked to leave the meeting and will be supported to do so where necessary.

Even if the wearing of face coverings is not a current government requirement, we ask you to wear one (unless you are exempt) in order to help prevent the spread of infection. Please also follow current social distancing guidance at all times.

The following arrangements will be regularly reviewed and updated as government and Quaker advice and guidance change, and we hope at some point to be able to safely revert to our usual way of holding Meeting.

2. Booking a place at Meeting for Worship

As a result of social distancing regulation and guidance, the number of people able to attend each Meeting for Worship will be limited. Therefore, we are putting in place a booking system to ensure we do not have overcrowding.

If you would like to attend a Meeting for Worship, please contact Sheila Houldin by telephone (01244 679035) or email (sheila.houldin@mypostoffice.co.uk) by 5pm on the preceding Thursday. Please tell Sheila if you are exempt from wearing a face mask and if you need a chair with arms. Please do not come to Meeting unless Sheila has confirmed to you that there is a place available for you.

If you need help with travelling to the Centre, please indicate this to Sheila and we will do what we can to support you within the relevant Government and Quaker guidance.

3. Changes to the layout of Meeting

The large hall at St Mary's Handbridge Centre will be used for Meeting for Worship. You should enter the Meeting through the Centre's front doors. Please put on a face mask before you enter. As you enter the building, you will be asked if you are well, asked for your contact details (if we don't already have them), and asked to sanitise your hands.

You will be directed straight to the main Hall. Please take a seat as far into the Hall as possible, and please do so straight away, as quickly and quietly as you can, keeping all your belongings (including your coat) with you at all times. Do not stop to talk or chat in the outer room.

Chairs will be positioned in rows to allow 2 metres social distancing, so please do not move any chairs.

The Centre's fire safety arrangements apply at all times and if the fire alarm sounds, you should leave the meeting as quickly as possible through one of the marked exit routes (NB there is no need to observe social distancing during an evacuation). You should make your way to the Centre's car park and wait until directed by a role-holder.

Toilets are clearly marked as Female and Male. Only one person will be allowed to use each area at a time (unless you need support or are a young child) and you are asked to wait in the marked area outside the hall until called forward. If you are queuing, please maintain social distancing at all times. Please wash, dry and sanitise your hands before re-joining the Meeting quietly.

If you are likely to need a drink during Meeting, please bring your own because neither water nor other drinks will be available and the kitchen will be closed.

There will be no books available, no items on any tables or other surfaces, nor will there be any cash or food-bank collections.

While you are in the Centre, please do not exchange items with other Friends.

At the end of the meeting, doorkeepers and other role-holders will ask you to leave in order, with those nearest the door leaving first and exiting through the side door of the Centre. Please stay in your seat until you are asked to leave. It is important to maintain social distancing at all times.

Please make sure you take all your belongings with you at the end of Meeting.

4. Some changes to roles and actions

There will be some changes to the actions and responsibilities of role-holders during Meeting. Elders, clerks, doorkeepers and overseers will take a collective approach to ensuring the safety of all, and may overlap or share roles.

One role-holder will stand by the entrance door to the Centre to ensure appropriate social distancing and hand sanitising, to check that individuals are well enough to enter and understand directions, and to record contact details if needed.

One role-holder will stand at the entrance to the hall to direct people through to the appropriate area, to ensure hand sanitising and to remind Friends to enter the meeting as quietly as possible. This role-holder will also ensure appropriate and safe access to the toilets.

A role-holder will give a short welcome at the beginning of the meeting and remind Friends of the new arrangements and their importance.

Elders will signal the end of the meeting.

A role-holder will read the notices and ask for news of Friends at the end of the meeting, but paper copies will not be distributed.

There will be no drinks served at the end of the meeting.

After notices, role-holders will ask people to leave, exiting only through the side doors. Please move promptly and do not stop to chat.