**WALLINGFORD BAPTIST CHURCH**

**ENSURING SERVICES/ACTIVITIES ARE COVID-SECURE**

WHAT WE HAVE DONE TO PREPARE

We have reviewed the Government Guidance (*COVID-19: Guidance for the safe use of places of worship from 4 July*) and that issued by the Baptist Union (*Coronavirus: Guidance on church worship*) and have prepared risk assessments based on these which are being published on the church website and will be kept under review.

The key points are:-

* Within the sanctuary we have reduced the number of chairs and amended the layout and flow to allow those attending services/activities to comply with the requirements of social distancing.
* We have provided hand sanitiser throughout the building and displayed suitable signing to encourage good hygiene to reduce the risk of disease transmission
* We have changed the arrangements in the toilets to meet the guidance on social distancing and good hygiene
* We have reviewed the cleaning and sanitising arrangements, provided additional materials and PPE as well as a cleaning checklist. The cleaning will be done by those who specifically offer to do so
* We have closed off areas so that they are not accessible whilst the building is open to reduce the requirement for cleaning; likewise in areas that are accessible we have removed or covered over items that will not be used.
* We have a system in place to quarantine chairs that cannot be sanitised for a minimum of 72 hours should the frequency of services/activities require this

WHAT WILL BE DIFFERENT WHEN YOU ARRIVE

You may need to wait outside while we get people in front of you settled

You will be asked to use the hand sanitiser provided as you come into building (or wash your hands thoroughly)

There will be tissues available for your use but we would ask you to take them and any other rubbish home for disposal

We will be keeping a record of who attends – this will be stored securely for 21 days and then destroyed (unless requested by NHS Test and Trace)

There can be no handshakes, hugs or kissing and no bibles, leaflets etc will be given out. There will be a plate for any financial offerings to be made (but not passed around)

Each of the toilet rooms will be restricted to use by those from one household at a time (*toilets at the rear of the building are closed*)

The routes in and out of the sanctuary and to seating areas are marked and should be followed.

There will be a one-way system to reduce congestion as people move around. That means if you need to leave during the service (including going to the toilet) you may have to use the side passageway

The number of seats and the layout is very different, the capacity is limited and you will only be able to sit next to people in your own household/bubble.

The style of services will be different to comply with the guidance (e.g. presently no congregational singing allowed) and there will be no refreshments before or after the service