



Brighton & Hove Methodist Circuit

The Circuit Office,
Hove Methodist Church
Portland Road
Hove, BN3 5DR
office@hovemethodistchurch.co.uk
01273 324600

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Coronavirus - Guidance for Circuit Churches

The Methodist Church is monitoring the situation around COVID-19 which at the moment is considered a moderate risk by the UK's Chief Medical Officer.

The Methodist Church has issued guidance to ensure the risks of spreading the virus are reduced. [Methodist Church - Coronavirus Guidance](#)

The Circuit Leadership Team has discussed this guidance and following is a summary of the practical precautions that churches should take immediately to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

First line of defence

Good hand hygiene is vital in reducing the spread of the virus. Wash hands with soap and water often or use hand sanitiser gel. This is particularly important for servers at Holy Communion.

Should I go to Church?

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.

If you are leading the service and are unwell, please don't struggle through but stay at home and get well. Remember Church doesn't stop because we don't meet and there are other ways of joining in with worship. Even if you would normally go to church with a cold, the words of 1 Corinthians 8:11 may be useful here: "Think of your weaker (brother/sister)"

Meeting & Greeting

We recommend that welcomers do not shake hands with people arriving for the service. If welcomers do shake hands - hand gel should be available to both parties.

Alternative greetings could include:

- using the British Sign Language version of the peace. [BSL Sharing the Peace](#)
- Using the Hindu greeting 'Namaste'

Similarly Ministers (preachers and leaders of worship) should refrain from shaking hands with people as they leave.

Holy Communion

All those administering Communion must wash their hands or use hand sanitiser immediately prior to distribution.

Bread will be dropped into the palm of the communicant.

Trays of wine glasses will be prepared in such a way that communicants can pick up their own glass of wine without coming into contact with other glasses.

Further information

It is clear that the situation regarding the virus is changing daily. The Circuit Meeting will be reviewing the guidance and contingency planning at the next meeting on Thursday, 19th March 2020.

Circuit Leadership Team