



Gracious Street
Methodist Church
KNARESBOROUGH

Reopening of Gracious Street's Building

Six months ago, on the 20th March, I announced "in light of Coronavirus, Gracious Street Methodist Church has had to suspend all current activities, including Sunday gatherings. Yet we still remain a community. Perhaps the most fundamental way we remain a community is to continue to be connected."

Over these months we have remained connected through phone calls, Gracious Street's postal service, social media and many other ways. So, I am most thankful to everyone because you continue to ensure that Gracious Street remains a community. These months have created opportunities but also challenges. One of these challenges has been the inability to gather on a Sunday morning. **We can now announce that on the 4th October we will restart a weekly Sunday morning services at 10am and fortnightly family service at 4pm. Both services will mark our celebration of Harvest.**

Over the last few months we have worked hard to ensure the building can be safe, a huge thank you to everyone involved in getting our church ready and open for worship again. There is no restriction on who can join us, however, those who are over 70 or deemed to be 'clinically vulnerable' should consider government advice to 'take particular care to minimize contact with others outside of their household'. Anyone showing symptoms of Covid-19 (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a change in your normal sense of taste or smell) should get tested and isolate.

Sunday mornings will feel different and we want to make it an enjoyable experience, below is a summary of what you can expect. **If you wish to come to the services we ask that you follow the guidelines below.**

- Entry into the church will be through the Bridge glass doors where we will be welcomed by a steward. We will need to use hand sanitiser and wear a face mask.
- As part of the Government's Track & Trace system, a steward will record the name and number of anyone attending in a register (this information will be destroyed after 21 days) Those who have booked in advance will have completed Track & Trace. If you have not pre-booked, please make sure we have your details.
- We will walk down the Bridge, maintaining social distance, and a steward will guide us to a seat. The seats have been carefully placed to maintain social distance and we are encouraged not to move the seats.
- Gracious Street Worship Leaders and Local Preachers have been creatively discussing how to create a meaningful service for us all. Our services will be shorter than usual; and while congregational singing is not permitted there will be music.
- We are also planning two styles of service; one for all and one aimed at families. Each service will be approximately 30min and there is enough room for 47 people.

- The Vestibule toilet will be available for those who really need to use the facilities, however we encourage you to avoid using the toilets if possible. You will need to wipe down all surfaces touched in the Vestibule toilet.
- While we will encourage electronic offerings (e.g. standing orders, card machine and text donation) there will be an offering plate as we leave the service.
- At the end of the service a steward will guide us as we leave the building via the Bridge glass doors.

Please note, currently there will only be one Sunday morning service at Gracious Street and there is enough space for 47 people. If you wish to attend the service we strongly recommend you book via email gsmcbookings@gmail.com. The closing date for booking is the Friday of the week of the Sunday service.

We will continue with Gracious Street's online services on a Sunday evenings at 6:30pm because we know not all of us are either able to (or willing to) return for a Sunday morning service in the building.

We recognise that coming back to the church building is a decision you and your family will need to prayerfully make. Some of you will decide to return for Sunday morning services and some of you will choose to remain at home for online services - either way we remain one community, connected.

Peace.

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