



# Belfast Citadel Salvation Army Church & Community Centre

## Returning to Gathered Worship

April 2021

Dear Friends,

It is now 59 weeks since the country entered lockdown and we were unable to gather as God's people for worship. We are pleased that we are now in a position to take the first steps back, although it is not going to be straightforward or feel entirely familiar. Nevertheless, by working together and supporting one another we will be able to worship in a way that gives glory to God and is meaningful and enriching for our faith - all the while doing so in a safe way.

The ongoing health and safety of everyone connected to the Corps is our first concern. To this end, when we meet together, we all need to do our part to protect one another by adhering to the best practices that will reduce the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus. In this regard, please familiarise yourself with the information below.

We thank you for your understanding and support as we begin this process of returning to gathered worship. Please be assured that there is no pressure upon anyone to return to gathered worship. It is still possible to share in our meetings using Zoom on a computer, tablet, mobile phone or landline phone, by catching up on Facebook or YouTube or by receiving a copy of our meetings by DVD or CD.

We must each make decisions that are right for us as individuals. We look forward to welcoming some of you very soon.

Please continue to pray for Belfast Citadel Corps as a whole as we work through the present challenges.

*Mark Waghorn (Major)*

### General Issues

- Bear in mind that these conditions are liable to change at any time.
- If you are displaying any symptoms of COVID-19, do not attend worship.
- Any decision to attend or not, is a matter of personal judgement.
- There is a limit on how many people may attend a meeting in the hall.
- Seating will be set out and arranged in advance in household groupings or 'social bubbles'. There will be a 2 metre distance between sets of seating. Regrettably we have no flexibility in seating arrangements and we would ask for your understanding and cooperation as to where you sit.
- While it absolutely goes against our natural instincts, please do not approach to speak to others inside the hall and once seated, please do not get up and move around the hall to greet people.
- We are unable to provide any creche facilities.
- People should not socialise with others outside their family group or 'social bubble' whilst travelling to the hall, before, during or after worship.
- Please don't arrive at the hall too early. Aim for any time after 10:10 am.
- There will be opportunity to make monetary offerings as you leave the main hall.

### On arrival:

- It is recommended that, unless exempted on medical grounds, people wear a face covering within the hall.
- Your details will be recorded in accordance with the NHS track and trace system (see below).

- Please wash your hands for 20 seconds and then queue for entry to the main hall as a household grouping or 'social bubble' using the 2 metre floor markings in the foyer
- You will be guided to your seat(s) by a member of the welcome team. We will aim to seat the earlier arrivals at the far side of the hall to leave room for the later arrivals nearer to the door, although this will depend on the size of the household groupings.
- No refreshments can be served in the hall. You may wish to bring a bottle of water, although a glass of water can be supplied by a member of the welcome team if required.

#### **During the meeting:**

- Regrettably at this stage we are unable to speak loudly, sing or use brass instruments within the hall. Nevertheless you may praise God silently or by humming along with the music whilst following the words.
- There will be no bibles or songbooks available - please bring your own copies if you wish. Song words will generally be displayed on the screen.
- You may use the mercy seat, but you will not be counselled there. Instead, please speak to someone after the meeting. The Mercy Seat will be cleaned between uses.
- While worshipping in the hall, you will be joining with those who are using Zoom. This will give you an opportunity to see some of your corps friends that you may not have seen for several months. Please be aware that you may appear on our video recording which will be shared on social media.
- Toilet areas are a point of heightened risk for COVID-19 contamination. If possible, please avoid the use of the toilet, although the accessible toilet will be available if required in an emergency. If you do use the toilet facilities, please sanitise your hands on entry and exit using the sanitisers provided.

#### **On leaving:**

- At the end of the meeting, please remain seated until you are advised to leave.
- Please maintain social distancing when leaving the building. Generally, those seated closest to the door will leave first.
- Please wash or at least sanitise your hands before exiting the building.

#### **Booking your seat:**

- If you would like to attend worship on a Sunday, **you must book** by the **preceding Thursday** at 8pm **at the latest**. You may contact us as follows:
- Phone Major's Mobile
- Text Major's Mobile
- Email Major: Mark.Waghorn@Salvationarmy.org.uk
- Put a note in our letterbox at 38 Dublin Road
- You will need to supply the names of all those in your household/'social bubble' who wish to attend.
- This needs to be done **on a weekly basis**.

#### **DATA PROTECTION: COVID 19**

Belfast Citadel Corps will hold details of visitors to support the NHS track and trace system. The legal basis for this is that it is necessary for the purposes of health and social care. It may be shared with those with a responsibility for the track and trace system on request who may contact you. We will keep it for 21 days and then destroy it.