

Dear family and friends of Rhema

Guidance on returning to church services at Bishop Thomas Grant (BTG) School

On Monday 19th July 2021 the Prime Minister said that the great majority of regulations will be dropped as we learn to live with COVID as an everyday reality. However, he spoke about the need to remain “very cautious” and to act responsibly in the days, weeks and months to come. With the rise in cases in several areas in recent months, we encourage all who are over the age of 70, or who have underlying health issues to stay at home and continue to take advantage of our online Zoom service which can be accessible each week.

Please refrain from attending Church if you have recently tested positive COVID-19 or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive COVID-19. Please be assured that our highest priority is your safety and comfort.

We are asking those wishing to attend church services in person from **Sunday 19th September 2021** to be mindful of the following steps and procedures that have been put in place for your safety:

Hand Sanitising

This will be an important aspect of entering BTG building and of keeping both yourself and others safe. Please use the hand sanitisers provided on entry to the building and observe the 2-metre social distance as you go upstairs.

Face Masks

Due to the risk of the potential spread of the virus it is compulsory that you wear a mask at all times. Please note you will not be permitted in the building without a mask. If you do not have a mask, we will provide one for you.

Seating Arrangements

We will be observing the two-metre distance from those outside your family. Families are encouraged to sit together but maintain the recommended distance of two-metres between families. Stewards will be on hand to direct you to your seat. Please remain in your designated seat for the duration of the service. The stewards will be on hand to direct you out of the hall at the end of the service. We would ask that you remain seated at the end of service until you are directed by the stewards to exit the hall.

Ventilation

This will continue with windows and doors open in the main hall.

Social distancing

We cannot permit any socialising indoors before or after service. Outdoor conversations must be brief while maintaining social distancing. When greeting, we would ask you to refrain from hugging, kissing or shaking hands with those outside of your family.

Information Table

There will be no provision of an information table for the foreseeable future. Please do not hand out any literature, etc. This is to avoid spreading of the virus through use of shared items.

Singing

Restrictions have been lifted on singing and musical performances in churches, including congregational singing and the Government has emphasised corporate responsibility of organisations. With the rise of the Delta variant and to ensure further safeguards for everyone, it is compulsory to wear a mask when singing.

Holy Communion

We will notify you regarding the taking of Holy Communion.

Refreshments

We will not be serving refreshments after service for the foreseeable future.

Toilets

To maintain the 2-metre distance only one person may occupy the toilet at any given time. As the corridors to the toilets are very narrow and do not give sufficient room to queue, please see the steward at the entry door who will direct you. Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult family member. Please sanitise hands before and after using the facilities.

Giving

We will not be physically handling cash/cheques and would encourage you to continue to give by way of online banking or by paying directly into the church's bank account via your bank. Our bank account details can be found on our website and is also given below for ease of reference:

Bank:	National Westminster Bank
Account Name:	Rhema Christian Ministries Limited
Account No:	48122890
Sort Code:	60 04 02

Footpath

BTG is accessible as usual via the footpath leading from the main road (Streatham Common North) for those travelling by bus. We would, however, ask you to be careful as the footpath is overgrown and isolated.

Exiting the building

Exit via the back door which leads to the car park. Please keep to the one-way system and the 2-metre rule. Please use the hand sanitiser at the bottom of the stairs before leaving the building. Please do not at any point attempt to re-enter the building via the back door. (Re-enter via the main entrance, if necessary, and go through the safety protocols again). Remember, we can speak safely in the car park.

Parking

Upon entering BTG please be aware that there are two car parks available on the premises. We are asking that you park your vehicles at least a car space apart from others parking as this will help us to observe social distancing while entering and exiting the grounds.



Conclusion

Our hope and prayers are that we continue to provide a safe environment in which all those who feel able to join us in person may do so safely. Your help and understanding of the challenges are important to us as we move forward as a church.

Please feel free to speak to any of the leaders if you have any questions or concerns regarding the return to in-person services.

Thank you for your cooperation.

God bless you!

Pastor Marva Scott