

Coronavirus advice - Stay Safe, Stay Positive

This advice should be used in conjunction with information and advice given by Government and health professionals, the pace of both change and advice means that you should refer to these sources regularly.

Gatherings and Meetings at Chapels

Given the current situation Essex Hall is making a clear call to suspend services, meetings and events that are held in Chapel and associated buildings. This is advised on the basis of the duty of care in providing a safe space for the community. Given that some users will be from those groups who are most at risk from the virus, gathering together physically does present a serious risk to lives and we must all stay safe and ensure others do likewise.

Practical steps

Please do inform your insurer that the Chapel is closed, like many household policies you may have a clause about the chapel not being used for any significant time.

Good communication is key and consider succession planning for your committee, if key members of your organisation are unable to undertake their roles due to self-isolation and illness.

Any key committee meetings should be assessed as to whether they can be postponed, or undertake via other means such as Skype, WhatsApp etc. If it is essential you meet, then please allow for those who feel unable to attend and provide a layout for the meeting that minimises close proximity. Clearly practice the highest standards of hygiene at these times.

Whilst we will cease to meet in a building, there are many other opportunities to express and demonstrate the Unitarian life. We are working upon some guidance for use of online platforms and how they might be used to facilitate contact and communication and looking at some old style teleconferencing options for those unable to access IT.

For those Chapels and congregations interested in Livestreaming services the Rev. Daniel Costley has produced a very useful guide to copyright issues

<https://www.kentunitarians.org/copyright-issues>

Data Developments have produced a useful walk through for Livestreaming using YouTube

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/xq8b2jg9fzm6kxk/Youtube%20Livestreaming%20help.mp4?dl=0>

On a wider pastoral outlook the UUA has a useful guide and although it may require some translation to a UK context the principles it outlines are helpful.

This can be accessed at

<https://www.uua.org/print/book/243873>