

**DEAR MEMBERS, ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF SALT CHURCH**

**VITALLY IMPORTANT PLEASE FULLY READ AND DIGEST THIS COMMUNICATION**

First, I want to continue to bless you all in the mighty name of Jesus, who has the words of eternal life and to pray safety and wholeness over you all.

Second, this is the first of important communications to keep you informed of the Church Council's plans to move the church out of lockdown and into a new normal.

Many of you may have realised that from the 11th May 2020 churches can open to congregations so the first available Sunday could be 17th May.

Many may be confused as to how we can move from a state of complete lock down to opening the church for services on a Sunday morning. However, it is like the rest of the economy as everything starts to move into a new normal.

I assure you that we are following ALL of the advice and laws and recommendations of the Governments 4 stage plan and ALL the advice from FERED [the Federation of Evangelical Churches Spain] who is our overseeing body who advises us with Government cooperation and authorisation.

To open the church the first stipulation is at 30% of the churches space capacity. For us at Salt Church Los Montesinos that is technically 168 people into the building on the ground floor. However, with adequate social distancing and following all the rules and recommendations combined with the layout of the floor space with the sound desk blocking the stage our recommended maximum is likely to be much less. This will be defined fully in my next communication as a small team are soon in the building working it all out.

**I am delighted to say that it is the Church Council's intention to hold our first service coming out of lockdown on Sunday 24th May 2020.**

However, it must be stated immediately that there is no expectation that people must come. Everyone must assess the information and the communications from us and everywhere else and make their own decision. You are not looking to please the Pastor or the Church Council.

We will all have to make many assessments as the lockdown eases as we will all have to decide how much we take part in the new freedoms that are there and that will increase over the 4 stages. For example, when the stages allow: will I go to a restaurant and eat outside or to a coffee area? Will I meet with friends with all the appropriate social distancing recommendations?

We will all have to assess our own health and any issues we may have, and our own risk factors and I encourage everyone to think very carefully how quickly they re-integrate in **all areas of life** and new freedoms and that **includes attending church**.

Registered as Torrevieja Christian Fellowship

Ministerio de Justicia Numero Registro 217-SG.Codigo de Identificacion R03004811

Known as Salt Church

**Contact us:**

Address:

Calle Daya Nueva 12,  
Poligono Industrial  
Levante II,  
03187 Los Montesinos,  
Alicante

Church Office:

(+34) 865 754 444  
(Answerphone)

e-mail:

[info@saltchurch.es](mailto:info@saltchurch.es)

Online:

[www.saltchurch.es](http://www.saltchurch.es)



Facebook:

@saltchurchspain



To open the church does mean that we will need strict procedures on entry into the building; activities in the building and exit from the building. These will be strictly enforced, and your full co-operation and compliance is appreciated in advance should you decide to attend.

We have put together a critical list that is attached in APPENDIX 1. and **this must be adopted by all attendees.**

We intend to continue to produce virtual church videos that will go out on Sunday mornings so that those who cannot attend or decide they are not ready to attend can join in a SaltChurch Church service similar to what we have been doing only they will be filmed in the church building.

In the future we will be aiming to live stream Sunday services on YouTube and Facebook, but this requires much planning and some technology to make happen. Watch this space for further information.

Our immediate need is for fully able volunteers to help clean the church week commencing 11th May as follows. Monday 11th / Tuesday 12th / Wednesday 13th between 09:30 am - 12:30 pm. This is in line with the communication that you have already received but was intended at the same time as this letter. Our sincere apologies for any confusion this might have caused. However, a huge thank you to those who have responded already to the need.

If you can help clean, then please let Jacqui know as we need extra help to do this. Jacqui, Sam and Paul will coordinate volunteers. The idea is small teams coming in on different days & times. Please note, you should bring your own gloves and a mask if you wish to wear one.

The Government advise strong social distancing of the younger generations from the more elderly and we take this advice. This is why younger families are being asked to arrive last and sit at the back of church note 10 Appendix 1 and to leave first to maintain strong social distancing. This also explains why we will not be able to offer Kids Church note 13 Appendix 1 for the foreseeable future and the creche will not operate.

**FINANCE:** A plea from Tim our treasurer. Please bring your tithes and offerings either to a church service or if you are unable to attend where possible and practical please take note of Appendix 1 point 16. We want to facilitate your act of worship in giving to the best of our ability. For all tithes and offerings, we give grateful thanks in anticipation. A huge thank you to those supporting the church through direct debit standing order and transfers. God is great and we are grateful because of the great I am.

We have been in total lockdown for nearly two months. Let us all pray that the 4-stage de-escalation plan is a great success and that we can function more and more as time goes on.

Every blessing to all the saints of God,

Chris Knight: Pastor and President

**Philippians 3:13-14** ... one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, 14 I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.

## **APPENDIX 1: STRICT PROCEDURES TO ENABLE SAFE SERVICES AND COMPLIANCE WITH GOVERNMENT RECOMMENDATIONS AND BEST PRACTICE DURING THIS SEASON**

We are strongly advised by FEREDE (the body that oversees us in Spain and links to the Spanish Government on our behalf) to only have one service a week therefore there will be **no Wednesday meeting** until further advised.

**Sunday services are intended to start from 24th May.** Confirmation will be given at an appropriate time so watch this space. Services will be shorter than normal to reduce movement to toilets and other areas of the building. The service will be limited to a maximum of 1 hour.

We must have a monitoring and Duty team with individuals having instructions to follow and monitored by a member of council. Each member of the team will wear a mask and gloves. If you are willing to help, please let Jacqui know.

Legally in Phase 1 we are allowed 30% of building capacity that equates to 168 people maximum but as explained is likely to be much less.

The building will be **thoroughly cleaned** between 11th May and 20th May.

### **Social distances will be adopted with the following:**

1. Floor marking at entrance and down the street 2 metres apart and have a queuing system to enter the building.
2. There might be a temperature check on everyone joining the queue if we can get an accurate check done.
3. Once reaching the entrance lobby hand sanitiser gel will be applied to hands before entry and leaving the building
- . There will also be several tables with additional bottles of hand gel on them.
4. Counting of people coming in will be done to ensure we do not exceed 168
5. Masks are not mandatory to be worn but if you want to wear one please bring in your own. There will be masks available for you if you want one and a donation towards the cost would be appreciated.
6. There will be markings at the toilet entrance 2 metres apart and only one person will be allowed to enter the gents, ladies or disabled toilets at any one time. Please wash your hands thoroughly before coming out.
7. People will be asked to come in and take their seats immediately with no standing around chatting and definitely no hugging, kissing or physical contact.
8. Vacating the building will be done in a staggered manner with no socialising.
9. Chairs will be laid out in either pairs for couples or singly and they will be 2 metres apart both sideways and in front and behind.
10. Families with young children are requested not to arrive until 10.30am and to sit at the back in front of the kitchen area and will be the first out after the service.

11. All surfaces that could come in contact with people i.e. seats, toilets, microphones, sound desk and equipment etc. will be cleaned/disinfected every week by the cleaning team before the next service.
12. The kitchen will be out of bounds to everyone and some bottles of water will be left out on a table for those in need of it.
13. There will be no Kids church work and the stairs leading upstairs will be out of bounds.
14. There will be no communion and no coffee served.
15. Offering baskets will be on tables at the front and back of the hall and will not be passed to each other. The offerings will be counted by those wearing rubber gloves.
16. A table will be put outside by the row of plants over the road with an offering basket on it so that anyone not coming to the service but wishing to bring in their tithes and offerings can drop it into the basket without needing to get out of their car.
17. Creche and reception desk will be out of bounds
18. Informative and reminder posters will be displayed throughout the building of the hygienic measures and must be complied with.
19. It is important to note that every effort will be made in every area to maintain a well ordered and safe environment to conduct worship in a corporate live setting. It is fully understood that attendance is according to the freedom and conscience of each person and that there is no expectation for people to attend where they may feel uncomfortable in doing so.
20. The advice from government bodies and FEREDÉ stipulates that the only people that should attend the services are those who are healthy with no cough, cold, or even feeling slightly unwell and definitely **should not attend** if they have any underlying medical risk conditions such as those shown below.
  - If you have tested positive for Covid 19 even if you have received the all clear.
  - Cardiovascular diseases and hypertension.
  - Diabetes.
  - Chronic lung diseases.
  - Cancer.
  - Immunosuppression.
  - Pregnancy.