

## Belmont Shul Reopening: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### Q. When is Belmont reopening?

A. We are planning to reopen on Sunday 12 July for some services. However, this is dependent on government guidance and the Chief Rabbi's instructions.

### Q: Where will the services take place?

A: Initially our weekday services will take place outside in the car park. Once we are satisfied with these arrangements, we will move the services into the main hall of the Shul. This means that we will not hold services if it is raining.

## Attending Services

### Q. Which services will run once Belmont reopens?

A. **Weekday** Initially we will run Mincha/Ma'ariv, which will take place each weekday (Sunday to Thursday) at 7:30pm. Once we are satisfied with the way this operates, we will trial Shacharit indoors.

The first **Shabbat services** will be held once we are satisfied with the weekday arrangements and the United Synagogue booking facility is operational. Members will be advised when we know this date.

### Q. Will there be restrictions on how many people can attend services?

A. Yes, we will follow the social distancing guidelines of 2 metres. On this basis the Shul car park has capacity for 24 people outside. The main hall has a capacity for about 60 people inside when we start to use it. If and when we decide to reduce the social distancing, the capacity will obviously increase.

### Q. How will it be decided who can attend services?

The United Synagogue has built a computerised booking system where you will be able to indicate which services you would like to attend. Seats will then be allocated to try and allow as many people to attend as often as possible. If a service is oversubscribed, priority will be given to those saying kaddish and for everyone else who would like to go to that

service we will draw lots. For those without online access, you will be able to ask to attend by calling the Shul office.

Q. I'm not a member of Belmont. Can I sign up?

A. Yes, but priority will be given to Belmont members.

Q. How long will the sign-up period be?

A. The United Synagogue computerised booking system will dictate the window for sign-up. When this is known, we will update these FAQs.

Q. How will I know if I can attend a service?

A. Following the closure of the sign-up window and drawing lots (if required), all those who have signed up will receive an email (or call from the Shul office) informing them which services they can attend for the week in question, at least five days before the start of the week in question. Priority will be given to those saying kaddish.

Q. How will seats for women be handled?

A. **For weekday services**, subject to the requirements for a minyan, everyone will be treated the same. If a service is oversubscribed, all the names will go into the lottery and be randomly allocated, regardless of gender.

**For Shabbat services**, again subject to the requirements for a minyan, it will be based on the proportions of men and women applying for that service and our ability to change how the Shul hall is laid out.

Q. Will I be able to bring my children?

A. Unfortunately, no children under the age of 12 will be able to attend at the present time. Children over the age of 12 are very welcome; we just ask that you inform us that they will also be attending, so that the seating in the Shul can be rearranged to accommodate them.

Q. Will I be able to attend a service if I have not been informed that I can?

A. No. In order to ensure the safety of those who are attending you will be asked to leave.

Q. Will there be children's services?

A. Sadly, children will not be able to attend services at Shul in line with the guidance from the United Synagogue. This is because it is more difficult to stop young children moving about which would, in turn, require parents to move about.

## **Health**

**Q. Will I be required to wear a facemask?**

A. Yes, for services inside the Shul building. We encourage everyone to bring their own facemask. If you can't bring your own, we do also plan to have disposable facemasks available.

**Q. Will I need to wear gloves?**

A. You will need a glove to operate the keypads to enter the site and the building. You will only be required to wear gloves when handling the Sefer Torah and its accoutrements. e.g. when leining or performing hagbah. Gloves should then be removed once no longer required for a task. Gloves will be provided to those who require them.

**Q. Will I be able to use Belmont siddurim/chumashim?**

A. No, because these represent a virus transmission risk, we ask that you bring your own siddurim and chumashim. Our siddurim and chumashim have been put away.

**Q. Will I be able to use Belmont tallitot?**

A. No, because these represent a virus transmission risk, we ask that you bring your own tallit.

**Q. Will I be able to use the toilets in the Shul?**

A. Yes, however only two people may enter the toilets at a time. We intend to ask members to oversee these arrangements. If you would like to volunteer please email [admin@belmontus.org.uk](mailto:admin@belmontus.org.uk)

**Q. If I or someone in my household is symptomatic, or has been asked to isolate by the government's Track and Trace scheme can I come to services?**

A. No. We ask that you follow government guidelines and self-isolate during that period.

## Practical

### Q. What is the role of the Minyan Monitor?

A. The Minyan Monitor will be responsible for ensuring only those who should be in attendance are, that all attendees (for services inside the Shul) are wearing a facemask and have brought their own books. If you would like to volunteer please email [admin@belmontus.org.uk](mailto:admin@belmontus.org.uk)

### Q. How will we navigate through the Shul?

A. **For weekday services** (Mincha/Ma'ariv) attendees will use the car park. There will be no access to the Shul building

**For Shabbat Services** You will need to arrive between 15 minutes before the start of the service and 15 minutes after the start of the service. There will be a one-way system in place. Attendees will enter the Shul building through the main doors, take their coat with them and fill up seats from the front of the Shul to the back.

If attendees need to use the toilet, they will leave through the doors either side of the Ark. They will turn left, go around the Shul and re-enter through the main doors before entering the toilet. They will re-enter the main hall through the rear doors, maintaining the one-way system.

At the end of the service, attendees will leave row by row through the doors either side of the Ark. They will turn left, go around the Shul and exit by the main gates. This route should provide sufficient time to keep the necessary distance.

### Q. How will seats for services be allocated?

A. Seats will not be individually allocated. We ask that you fill them up from the front to the back.

### Q. Will there be a Kiddush on Shabbat morning?

A. No. It will also not be possible to arrange a l'chayim on a weekday morning.

### Q. What happens to outside seats if it rains?

A. There will be no seating provided outside and services will be cancelled if it rains, with a message issued to cancel the service using a WhatsApp group.

Q. Will the Shul be cleaned between services?

A. Yes, at the end of each service, all of the chairs, surfaces and toilets will be cleaned.

Q. Will there be singing during the service?

A. To try and minimise the spread of the virus, only the Chazan will be able to sing.

## **Halachic**

Q. How can I request a call up?

A. The HOs are generally aware of call ups but if there is a specific reason, please indicate that when signing-up for services and email [admin@belmontus.org.uk](mailto:admin@belmontus.org.uk).

Q. How will aliyot work?

A. Aliyot will be assigned as normal, with each Aliyah going to different people. When a person is called up, he will stand in a designated space, away from the Torah. Further directions will be given on the day.

Q. What will the service be like on Shabbat morning

A. When these services restart ,we expect that Shacharit in Shul will begin at 'Shochen Ad', followed by Leining and Mussaf. Those parts of the service that are not said in Shul should be said at home prior to arrival. We expect the services to start at 10:00am and last no more than 90 minutes. There will not be a sermon or a Kiddush. Everyone attending will need to maintain social distancing of 2m. At the end of the service attendees will be expected to disperse as quickly and safely as possible.

## **Future**

Q. What will happen for the Yomim Noraim?

A. In coordination with the United Synagogue, we are currently working through the details and will inform you when these are finalised.