

Coming back to church during the Covid-19 pandemic

We hope to be able to re-open the church for streamed Worship from Sunday 6th September.

What will church be like?

A lot of work has gone into planning how we can worship together in church and still keep each other safe. This means it will be quite different from what we are used to.

Please read this leaflet to find out what this will be like. It is a lot to take in, so please ask if you have any questions.

We strongly suggest that people should make their own decisions as to whether or not they attend church. They should follow Government guidance for the time. The risk factors for a poor outcome from Covid-19 are well known (and include age, male sex, BAME background, obesity, co-morbid heart and lung disease). People should assess whether they consider the benefit they will gain from attending church outweigh their individual risks. People should feel under no pressure to attend.

Please do not come to church if you are feeling unwell. Do not enter the building if displaying symptoms of Covid-19.

We will have a steward outside to assist you on arrival. Please wait outside to be seated, observing the correct social distancing.

It will be lovely to see each other, but please remember **NOT** to shake hands or hug!

We will enter one person/bubble/family group at a time, using the main church door. Inside the church we will follow a one-way system.

What do I need to do when I come in?

Please make sure you are wearing a face covering, correctly positioned to cover your nose and mouth. If you have forgotten this, we will have a supply which you can use.

Please use the hand sanitiser provided as you come in.

We are required to complete a register of everyone attending our service for Track & Trace purposes, so we will take your details as you arrive.

Please leave your offering (if any) in the collection box at the door.

Where can I sit?

A steward will direct you to a seat. The chairs will be in groups of 2. We will fill the Church from the front to the back, even if it is not where you usually sit.

Please do not sit with anyone who is not in your household or bubble.

Can I hang up my coat?

No, please place your coat and any other personal possessions on the seat next to you.

NB. We are required to have external doors and windows open throughout the service to maintain adequate airflow, so it may be quite chilly in the church. You may want to wear warm clothes!

Should I pick up a hymn book?

No, sadly we will not be able to sing, as research indicates that singing accelerates the spread of the virus. But we are still able to listen to hymns and other music and we can sing along in our heads!

Will we be having Holy Communion?

We expect to have communion. This will be done observing all the necessary guidance.

Will we be having Refreshments?

No. Refreshments will not be served at the present time. If necessary, bring your own bottled water.

What will the service include?

We are attempting to make the service as normal as possible. The service will include readings, a sermon, prayers and some songs. The sermon may be live or recorded. Singing is not yet allowed, but you may “hum along”.

How long will the service last?

The service will last a maximum of 60 minutes.

Can I use the toilet?

Yes. The disabled toilet will be available. Please wash your hands for at least 20 seconds after use. Anyone using the toilet is asked to use the antiviral cleaner provided to wipe down any surfaces that they have touched - door handles, flush button, toilet seat and taps.

What if I feel unwell?

Please do not come to church if you feel unwell. If you are taken ill during the service please take your possessions and go to the Duty Steward.

What happens at the end of the service?

The congregation will be directed to leave by the steward, starting with those sitting nearest to the front. Please keep your face covering on and take care to remain at least two metres from others until you are outside the church. Hand sanitiser will be available for use as you exit. Please disperse quickly from the building as you leave.

The duty stewards will do a clean of the areas of the church that has been used, before locking.

May 2021. Peter McAuley