

Dear friends,

It has been a long time since we last met for worship in March, and we have missed seeing each other and missed worshipping together. We are planning to re-open the church for Sunday services from **Sunday October 4th at 10.45**. We don't know how often these services will happen and we will keep you informed. Weekly services will continue online as before.

Much thought and planning has gone into making the church building and our Sunday morning arrangements safe for us all.

The overriding principles that are being adopted to make sure that we are as COVID-safe as possible are;

- **Reducing risk of spreading the coronavirus by airborne transmission**
- **Reducing risk of spreading the coronavirus by physical contact on surfaces**

Please feel free to contact your elder if you wish to discuss further the plans that have been put in place. These pages give the arrangements in more detail.

It will be a joy to worship together again, even though we can't sing, to praise God and to listen to His word as a church fellowship. If you feel able to attend we would love to see you, but we fully understand if you don't wish to return just yet.

With every blessing, Andrew and the Elders

**Following these instructions,
will help keep you and other worshippers safe.**

- 1. A face mask is essential to attend church worship.** (Face masks are available in church if you forget yours). Only the preacher may wear a visor.
- 2 Please do not come to church if you have any symptoms of coronavirus** or other cold or flu symptoms. Do not come to church if you have come into contact with anyone who has or is suspected to have the coronavirus (Please allow 14 symptom free days before returning to church).
- 3. Maintain social distancing of 2m at all times** inside and outside the building, and when entering and leaving the building.
- 4. Obey all signage and listen to instructions given by the stewards.**
- 5. Use the hand sanitiser** which is available as part of the new cleaning strategy that has been put in place to specifically kill the coronavirus on all surfaces. Touch as few surfaces as possible whilst moving around the building.
- 6. If you need to use the toilet, please use the toilet for the disabled in the front foyer** and follow the cleaning instructions before and after use.
- 7. By remaining in your seat, you can chat quietly to the people nearest you before and after the service.** Please avoid socialising in the foyer etc or using a loud voice as this increases risk of infection spread.

What to expect on arrival at church? Doors will open at 10.30

- Only enter or leave church via the front doors. The foyer steward will open the door to you when your mask is in place. The rear entrance is only to be used for mobility scooters.
- You will be asked to sanitise your hands when entering the building.
- The church steward will conduct you to a seat, which will be socially distanced. Please remain in your seat at all times (unless you need the toilet). The gallery seating will be used if necessary.
- Only sit with members of your household. Children can stay with their family as there will be no children's activities at present.
- The church steward will record your attendance for our track and trace system.

How will the worship be different?

- The person leading worship will use a visor.
- We may use music in worship but unfortunately we will not be able to sing.
- The pew Bibles will not be in use; you may bring your own Bible.
- For communion services, you will be asked bring your own bread and wine/juice if you wish, and only move your mask momentarily for taking each of the bread and then taking the wine/juice.
- There will be no offertory collected.

What happens at the end of the church service?

- Sadly, there will be no refreshments
- You may remain in your seat to chat quietly to those nearby
- When you are ready to leave, ensure there is a 2m gap between you and others from different households. Leave by the front door, touching as few surfaces as possible.

Access to and Use of the Church Premises

In general, at present you should not need to go into any of the church buildings during the week. If you think you need to access the building, please phone Christine and Tony Thomas (tel 01455 448288) who will advise how and when it is safe to do so.

The church sanctuary will only be used Sunday mornings and possibly on Wednesdays. This means that a 72 hour period will have elapsed between uses, and any virus on surfaces would then be inactive. The church is being cleaned regularly in accordance with COVID safety guidelines.

The Vine, the Brownies and Guides and the Dance School are resuming activities. As the rear entrances, rear staircases, upper and lower halls and toilets may be in use by these groups during the week, for your safety we ask that you do not use these facilities at any time during the week or weekend periods.