

Dear Member,

Following a meeting of the re-opening group on Monday night 19th October a proposal was put to Session that we re-open the Church building for Sunday morning Worship on the 15th November 2020. This proposal was approved by a substantial majority of Session members. As a result Sunday morning Services will now re-commence on Sunday morning 15th November.

It is necessary that we share some important information regarding what this will mean in terms of procedures.

In complying with the social distancing regulations, both from local government and PCI, we have marked out the church sanctuary to assess how many people can be safely accommodated, while maintaining a 2m separation. It may surprise you to know that only between 40 and 50 people will be able to attend a morning service. The total number will largely be dependent on the number of individuals, couples, and families that wish to attend.

For example if only individuals attend, just 41 people will be able to worship, 20 downstairs and 21 upstairs. That number will increase if more couples (from the same household), or family groups attend.

Therefore, church will 'feel' much different from what we have been used to. It is almost certain that you will not be able to sit in the pew you have always sat in. You will also not be able to sit beside the friend or member that you have always enjoyed doing so in the past.

Thus, based on these new realities that we need to work within, we are going to implement the following procedures:

- Anyone wishing to attend church MUST pre-register with Gillian in the church office (Tel 028 91822416) by Friday lunchtime before the Sunday service. The name and contact details of the attendee(s) must be provided for contact tracing purposes. Gillian will inform the caller if they can be accommodated with seats on the Sunday they would like to attend (this may also mean larger groups splitting up). If there are insufficient seats available we will try to offer an alternative Sunday.

No 'block' bookings will be permitted to ensure as many people as possible are offered the opportunity to attend a service.

If you have been offered a seat please make every effort to avail of this opportunity. However, if you feel unwell, have a cough or sneezes, please do not attend.

It is highly unlikely that anyone turning up on the day without pre-registering will be allowed entry.

- On arrival at church on Sunday morning, worshippers will be welcomed at the central front door as normal. (the rear door will be locked). However, those on reception duty will be wearing PPE, and cannot shake hands with you. You will need to use the provided hand sanitisers.

Your name(s) will be checked against a list for that Sunday and you will be escorted to your seat.

The church will be filled from the front to the back (as much as possible). Due to the layout, family groups will probably be seated on the side pews, while couples and single worshippers will be seated in the centre pews or in the gallery.

The gallery lends itself to single worshippers, so will be used for those people who have no mobility issues. If you do have any mobility issues, please mention to Gillian.

- The church service will likely be shorter and will not include a collection. Offerings may be deposited in baskets placed in the vestibule as you leave the service.
- When the service is over, worshippers will exit from the back to the front. Please maintain a 2m separation during this time. Those on the Methodist side will exit through the front side door closest to the carpark. Those on the church halls side will exit through the front door closest to the Hub. Those in the gallery will exit through the centre doors.

While it is a natural urge for each of us on a Sunday morning to have a good chat, it is strongly recommended that people do not engage in conversation outside of the church, as this will cause natural 'blockages' for others wishing to get to their car or pass by.

- Dependent on temperature and weather conditions, doors may be kept open to ensure adequate ventilation and airflow. This will be reviewed as each week and month passes.
- It has been recommended that we do not open our toilet facilities during these shorter Sunday services. However, we will open the disabled toilet for those who need this service. The main toilet blocks will be closed.
- Face coverings MUST be worn whilst inside the building for the duration of the service.

During these strange times, there will be no coffee or tea facilities in the HUB, and no creche or Sunday School.

It is still our plan to live stream/record the morning worship and make it available online. Also an audio only version will be available. So if you feel uncomfortable attending, for health reasons, there are still ways in which you can join in worship.

It is our hope and prayer that someday, God willing, we will all be able to return to the way things used to be. Until then, in order to keep all of us safe, and especially the most vulnerable in our midst, we need to take these extraordinary measures.

We recognise this will be difficult for many, probably frustrating, and definitely different. But we would ask for your patience and support during this time.

Stay safe and God Bless.