

# Wilson Memorial Church

At The HEART of the Community we serve

JULY 2020: ISSUE 3

## WILL THE CHURCH BE OPEN THIS SUNDAY?

That is a question which has been asked a lot since the Scottish Government announced that places of Worship can begin to reopen on July 15 for *congregational services, including pre-arranged or scheduled acts of worship and communal prayer*. Of course, the truth of the matter is that the Church has never really been closed. For sure, the doors may have been shut and congregational services may have been suspended, but Wilson Memorial has been continuing to function as a Church in a whole variety of new and different ways, and in some ways is actually thriving and growing. While we may love our building, we all know that the Church is not confined to the bricks and mortar, but comprises each and everyone of us who love Jesus wherever we are. As the old children's hymns goes, 'The Church is not a building/The Church is not a steeple/The Church is not a resting-place/The Church is the people/ I am the Church/You are the Church/We are the Church together/All who follow Jesus/All around the world/Yes, we're the Church together.'

That said, we know how anxious you all are to be able to gather and worship together. However, as has been said several times before, our *congregational services* will not be as we once knew. If you have attended any of our twice-weekly times of *individual prayer, quiet reflection, and silent meditation* on Wednesday and Saturday, you will see that our sanctuary looks very different. In a space in which we could accommodate 100 seats, we are now only able to provide 20 seats because of the 2 metre *physical distancing* measures we are required to observe. We are also having to operate a one-way system throughout the entire Church building, and strict hygiene measures are in place. The names and contact details of every person entering our Church building have to be recorded for *Test And Protect* purposes.

As you can imagine the KAIROS TEAM (this was the Team appointed by the Session to lead and coordinate our response to COVID-19) have worked extremely hard to ensure that we met all of the Scottish Government guidelines before recommending to the Session that we opened the Church for *individual prayer, quiet reflection, and silent meditation* on July 4.

The Scottish Government guidelines for the safe opening of *places of worship for congregational services* was only published on Tuesday, July 14, and the KAIROS TEAM will need to take some time to consider all the requirements and their implications for our safe opening of our Church for *congregational services*. So, the answer to the question, 'Will The Church Be Open This Sunday?' is NO. However, rest assured that the KAIROS TEAM and the Session will continue to work hard towards that goal.

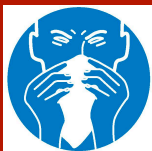
As we begin to plan, here are some of the things that the Scottish Government guidelines that we will need to consider and follow:

- Conduct A COVID-19 Risk Assessment - based on current guidelines and legislation.
- Physical Distancing - currently 2 metres, one-way system, signage etc.
- Hygiene Safeguards - hand sanitiser, cleaning after every service, etc.
- Data Collection - Test and Protect
- Maximum Numbers Who Can Attend - 50 (although, our space only allows for 25-30 at 2 metres apart)
- Restricted Use Of Toilets - only one person at a time in the Toilet areas, clean after every use.
- Bibles/Books of Praise - to be removed (BYOB - Bring Your Own Bible)
- No congregational singing
- Soloists to sing behind a glass/plexiglass screen)
- No Food or Drink - unless it is essential to the act of worship
- People in Higher Risk - those who are in high risk health and/or shielding categories are advised to stay at home.

As you can see there is a great deal to consider, so we would value your continued prayers and support as the KAIROS TEAM and the Session endeavour to lead us forward to the next stage of embracing our 'new normal'.

### CATCH IT

Germs spread easily.  
Always carry a tissue  
and use it to catch  
your cough or sneeze



### BIN IT

Germs can live for  
several hours on tissues,  
so put it in the bin as  
soon as possible



### KILL IT

Wash your hands  
properly for 20  
seconds, and  
wash them often



## OPENING HOURS FOR *INDIVIDUAL PRAYER*: JULY

**Saturday, July 18 @ 10:00am-11:30am**

Stewards: Pauline Hannah  
Megan Hannah  
Vicki Chapman

**Wednesday, July 22 @ 10:00am-11:30am**

Stewards: Angela Vance  
Scott Kennaway  
Mike Marsden

**Saturday, July 25 @ 10:00am-11:30am**

Stewards: George Smith  
Sheila Ross  
TBD

**Wednesday, July 29 @ 10:00am-11:30am**

Stewards: Gillian Reid  
Sandra Brunton  
Catrina Grieve

## QUIZ NIGHT

Unfortunately, the QUIZ NIGHT had to be cancelled owing to unforeseen technical issues. It is hoped to reschedule the QUIZ NIGHT within the next couple of weeks.

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS AND CELEBRATIONS



As mentioned last week, Alistair Cook celebrated his 80th Birthday on July 10. Rev. Mike and Gillian Reid surprised Alistair (socially distanced) with a card and a box of his favourite sweets (Liquorice Allsorts).

If you have a special event or celebration that you would like us to mark in some way, please let us know.

Please continue to pray for those recovering from illness/surgery, and those who are in care-homes where visiting is still restricted.

Please also continue to remember those who are grieving for loved ones.

## STAYING INFORMED AND INVOLVED

### WORSHIP:

- YouTube - link is emailed each week (contact Rev. Mike if you are not receiving it)
- Website - go to [www.wilsonmemorial.org.uk](http://www.wilsonmemorial.org.uk)
- Telephone - dial 0131 297 6174 to listen to the sermon
- Podcast - use iTunes, Spotify, or Stitcher and search 'Wilson Memorial Church'
- By Post - Contact Rev. Mike (details below)

### WEEKLY NEWSLETTER:

- Website - go to [www.wilsonmemorial.org.uk](http://www.wilsonmemorial.org.uk)
- E-mail - Weekly (contact Rev. Mike if you are not receiving it)
- By Post - Contact Rev. Mike (details below)

### TELEPHONE-CARE MINISTRY:

Everyone in the Church Family receives at least one telephone call each week from one of our Care Volunteers. Call Margaret Brown for more details (contact details below)

### HERE TO HELP MINISTRY:

We have a small group of Volunteers, led by Gillian Reid, who are willing to pick up groceries, prescriptions, and post letters. Gillian can be contacted by email: [candlegill@yahoo.com](mailto:candlegill@yahoo.com) or by phone on 07896 975206.

### WEEKLY CUPPA AND CHAT:

Each week Rev. Mike hosts a Cuppa And Chat (bring your own Cuppa) on ZOOM. A link is sent out each week via email. If you would like to receive the link via email, please contact Rev. Mike.

### WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, TWITTER

Website: [www.wilsonmemorial.org.uk](http://www.wilsonmemorial.org.uk)  
Facebook: Search - Wilson Memorial Church  
Twitter: @PortobelloUF

#### MINISTER

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#### SESSION CLERK

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#### TREASURER

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#### CLERK TO THE BOARD

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#### CARE COORDINATOR

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