

# Wilson Memorial Church

At The HEART of the Community we serve

AUGUST 2020: ISSUE 4

## SUNDAY “IN-PERSON” WORSHIP:

**We shall be resuming Worship services on Sunday, September 6.** We know that many of you have been looking forward to the resumption of *in-person* worship services for a long time. We also know that some of you would like us to have moved quicker in resuming *in-person* worship. However, the Session made the decision to proceed with caution, and to ensure that we complied with all the necessary COVID-19 measures which have been mandated by the Scottish Government. We also decided to use the opening times on a Wednesday and Saturday to gauge the actual demand for *in-person* worship services, by offering a short act of worship during the opening times for *individual prayer, quiet reflection and silent meditation*. Attendance has not been what we expected, or indeed had been led to believe it would be based on anecdotal feedback from our Church family. It is quite clear that there is still a great deal of anxiety and cautiousness among the vast majority of our Church family.

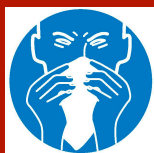
In order for us to resume *in-person* worship services, we have had to meet a number of strict guidelines:

- Conduct a COVID-19 **Risk Assessment**. (The full details of this are available on the gov.scot website)
- Ensure **physical distancing** requirements can be met. We have installed floor markers, indicating the 2 metre safe-distance, and a one-way system. We will have to ensure a safe queue management system, which may mean that you will have to wait outside until the vestibule is clear.
- Provide **hygiene measures**. We have installed hand-sanitiser dispensers in the vestibule and the rear corridor between the sanctuary and the small hall (Kekewich side of the building). Additional hand-sanitisers are available throughout the building. Face masks and gloves are also available. Please be aware that **FACE COVERINGS ARE MANDATORY** (except for those who have an exemption) within the building. A face-shield is not considered to be a face covering. There will also be restrictions to the number of people using the toilets at one time. All seating and other hard surfaces that may have been touched, will have to be cleaned after each service.
- **Test and Protect**. The Church has a duty to keep a temporary register of worshippers, volunteers and staff contact details for a period of 21 days for Test and Protect. This must include the name and phone number of each person, the date of visit with time of arrival and departure.
- **Cleaning** is to be more extensive. All objects and surfaces touched frequently, such as chairs, door handles, light switches, sinks and toilets, should be cleaned thoroughly and frequently. Certain areas of the Church building will be cordoned off if not required. All unnecessary items have been removed, and all soft-furnishings have also been removed (if you require a cushion you will need to bring your own from home, and take it with you when you leave). We have provided disinfectant wipes throughout the building.
- **Worship**. Individuals must be physically distanced from others who are not in their household/extended household group. Communal resources, such as Bibles and Praise Books have been removed. Please bring your own Bible. Singing, shouting and playing of wind instruments is not allowed. However, an individual may sing from behind a plexiglass screen. We are looking into purchasing a screen for the use by soloists. The consumption of food and drink is not permitted, and therefore, we will not be able to have *Coffee-Time* after worship. We are also looking into obtaining individual servings of bread and wine for the celebration of the Lord's Supper, as shared items are not permitted. Cash offerings are discouraged, with online giving used instead. The offering plates will be at the entrance to the sanctuary, and if your offerings should be placed in them as you enter the sanctuary. Once the service is ended, worshippers are encouraged to leave promptly.

The maximum number of people permitted at worship is limited to 50 people, but this is dependent upon the ability to maintain the 2 metre physical distancing requirement. In our own situation, this has resulted in our seating capacity being reduced to a maximum of 35 people (this includes an allowance for the seating of same household groups). Based on our pre-lockdown attendance of between 55-65 people, we have

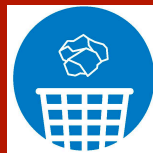
### CATCH IT

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



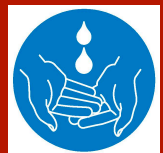
### BIN IT

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



decided, in the first instance, to offer two services of worship. However, this will be reviewed and adjusted based on actual attendance, and any changes in the Scottish Government guidelines.

This means that **YOU WILL HAVE TO BOOK** in advance for either the 10:00am service or the 11:00am service. Each service will last no longer than 40 minutes, in order to allow for the completion of all the cleaning and hygiene measures. Allocation will be on a first-come-first-served basis. In other words, if you do not book your seat in advance you may not be able to attend worship if you simply show up. In addition, you will not be able to book weeks in advance. **This is how you are to book:**

- Email or telephone George Smith during the week, indicating which service you wish to attend, and no later than Friday morning. (Remember, this is on a first-come-first-served basis, so book early) George's contact details are:
  - email: [gs011k9070@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:gs011k9070@blueyonder.co.uk)
  - telephone: 0131 661 4660
- George will confirm your booking, either by email or telephone. If you have not received confirmation by Friday evening, call George.
- Notify George if you are unable to attend as soon as possible in order that your place can be allocated to someone else.

## STILL OPEN FOR INDIVIDUAL PRAYER (& WORSHIP)

Here is the schedule for the remainder of August:

### Individual Prayer and Worship

**Saturday, August 22 - 10:00am - 11:00am**

**Saturday, August 29 - 10:00am - 11:00am**

### Individual Prayer Only

**Wednesday, August 26 - 10:00am - 11:00am**

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS (AND FUNNIES):

Annabel Chapman celebrates her 4th Birthday on August 24...Happy Birthday Annabel!

Dennis Anderson also celebrates a Birthday this week, but we couldn't possibly tell you his age...(yes, he is really that old!)

Margaret Jordan and Scott Vance share a Birthday this coming week (well, they actually have their own Birthday, but it is on the same day!).

We had hoped to be able to surprise Helen Thompson this past Thursday on her 100th Birthday, but unfortunately the Care Home would not allow us to visit due to the current COVID-19 restrictions. However, undeterred, Margaret Brown sent flowers on behalf of the Church, and Rev. Mike sent a card, which had been signed by as many of our Church family as possible.

Last weeks 'funnies' clearly inspired Rebecca and Gordon Brown, who shared these 'stories':

*Many years ago a well-beloved, long-lived Highland minister, was well-known as a "character" who indulged in histrionics to emphasise his biblical teachings.*

*He attended school sports day with the exhortation "run like Jehu". eh? children must have been made sterner then.*

*One Sunday he must have thought his congregation's inertia needed to be stirred up. He hitched up his black robe and slid down the pulpit's rail to demonstrate how easy it was to descend into hell. Yup, those were the days.*

*Another time he decried the evils of drinking too much. "I would cast all the drink into the river. Now we will sing shall we gather at the river"*

*However, during one session with the Bible Class attended by teenagers, the minister asked (imagine you hear the Highland intonation for this question.).....What waas Peter?*

*the resulting answers were*

*Peter was a disciple of the Lord..... Yes but what waas Peter?*

*Peter was a fisherman.....Yes but what waas Peter?*

*Peter was a good man.....Yes but what waas Peter?*

*Peter denied the Lord..... Yes but what waas Peter?*

*The responses followed on rather confidently, but each one was rebuffed.*

*Eventually the minister's insistence gave out and sounding a bit exasperated he said*

*PETER WAS.....ASTONISHED!*

#### MINISTER

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