

Wilson Memorial Church

At The HEART of the Community we serve

AUGUST 2020: ISSUE 5

SUNDAY “IN-PERSON” WORSHIP TO RESUME:

The last time an ‘in-person’ Sunday worship service was held at Wilson Memorial Church was March 15, when the Session the very difficult decision to suspend all Church activities with immediate effect. The only regular Church ministry that was maintained was the Food Bank, which Gillian Reid and Rev. Mike have kept going throughout the *COVID-19 lockdown*, very ably assisted by volunteers, Sheena S, Alice S, Beth Hannah, and Charity Pritchard who is a Mission Strengtheners with Edinburgh City Mission.

However, while our front doors may have been closed due to *COVID-19* the ministries of our Church have not only continued, but in some instances have also begun to thrive. We developed a telephone pastoral ministry, overseen by Margaret Brown and ministered by a wonderful team of volunteers. We established a practical care and support ministry, led by Gillian Reid (including the Food Bank), and supported by a number of volunteers. Rev. Mike learned new technical skills very quickly, and set up the weekly on-line worship service, with services being posted on YouTube and our website. A weekly Order of Worship to accompany the on-line service was emailed and posted to everyone in our Church Family, and beyond. In addition, a weekly Newsletter has been produced, keeping the congregation informed and advised. Since the middle of July we have also been opening the Church on Wednesday and Saturday morning between 10:00am and 11:00am (initially this was between 10:00am and 11:30am) for individual prayer, quiet reflection, and silent meditation. At the beginning of August we added a ‘live’ version of the service during the Saturday opening.

But now, we are delighted to be able to open our Church for *in-person* worship services on a Sunday, beginning on **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**. Due to the existing *physical distancing* measures of 2m, our seating capacity has been reduced from 100+ seats to just 28. Consequently, the decision was made to offer **TWO** services each Sunday, in order to accommodate everyone who may wish to return to worship on a Sunday. However, this means that we have had to introduce a **BOOKING SYSTEM** in order to comply with the Scottish Government *COVID-19* guidelines (these were detailed in the August 2020, issue 4 of the Newsletter). In addition, there will be a number of volunteer stewards on duty at each service, who will guide you from the moment you arrive at Church. **Please respect and follow their direction**, as it is designed to ensure your safety and well-being at all times. The **services** will also be quite different from what we knew before. The most obvious will be the arrangement of the seating. Please note that you will not be able to sit where you usually sit. The present guidelines also prohibit public singing, and therefore, there will be **NO** congregational singing. We will listen/show praise videos on the screen. Soloists are permitted, but they must sing from behind a clear screen (which we have purchased). The *Offering* will be received at the door as you arrive, or as you leave, and there will be **NO** refreshments at the conclusion of worship (although, feel free to bring your own). The worship services will each last no longer than 40 minutes in order to allow for the safe arrival/departure of the congregation, and for the seating and other hard services to be cleaned by the stewards. Therefore, please **do not arrive earlier than 10 minutes** prior to your chosen service time.

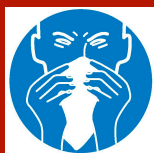
The **BOOKING SYSTEM** is as follows:

- You can only book **one week** at a time.
- Seats will be allocated on a first-come-first served...**so book early to avoid disappointment**.
- You can book your seat by Email or Telephone between 7:00pm and 9:00pm on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and **all bookings must be made through George Smith**:
 - email: gs011k9070@blueyonder.co.uk
 - telephone: 0131 661 4660

We ask for your patience and understanding as we continue to navigate our way through these unusual times, but we are thankful to God for the progress we have made so far. We look forward to welcoming you back to worship on **Sunday, September 6**.

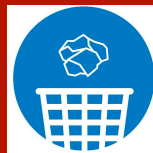
CATCH IT

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



EDINBURGH STREET PASTORS - RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS

Edinburgh Street Pastors are recruiting new volunteers. Training will take place on the weekends of 18th to 20th October and 15th to 17th November and will be run on the Friday evening, Saturday part day and Sunday afternoon of both weekends. If you are interested please email edinburghsp.training@gmail.com or call 07523 267 906. For background information see www.streetpastors.org.

DR GRAHAM'S HOMES - SPONSORSHIP UPDATE

We received an update from Dr. Graham's Home recently, and we would like to share with you some of the key points:

- Most of the children returned to their families due to COVID-19. Blessen Abraham (our sponsored child) has been back with his family since early July.
- If you would like to email Blessen, you can send an email letter to: sponsorship@drgrahamhomes.co.uk
- It is preferred that you attach any letters to the email as Word document or a PDF. Letters will then be forwarded to the Sponsorship Office at the Homes (your email address will not be included for security reasons). When children reply they write the letter by hand and the Sponsorship Office will scan the letter to the UK office, who will then forward it on to you.
- It now costs £1200 per year plus Gift Aid for a child to be cared for at the Homes. Without Gift Aid the cost is now £1500. (Wilson Memorial provides a partial sponsorship through our monthly donations - pre-COVID).

Please continue to pray for Blessen, and for Dr. Graham's Homes, as they endeavour to continue their support for children.

NEWSLETTER UPDATE - SWITCHING TO MONTHLY

As we are beginning to slowly emerge from *lockdown* and will be worshipping together again as of Sunday, September 6, the Newsletter will be switching to a monthly schedule. However, if there are issues and changes that arise between now and the next edition of the Newsletter, we will produce a special edition.



100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Helen Thompson celebrated her 100th Birthday last Thursday. We managed to get flowers and a card to her, despite the COVID-19 visiting restrictions.

She certainly looks as though she had a wonderful celebration. Well done Helen!

Rumour also has it that our very own Kenneth Ritchie is also celebrating a birthday this coming week...'



As we continue our journey through the COVID-19 Coronavirus crisis God reminds us to:

“TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING; IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, AND HE WILL MAKE YOUR PATHS STRAIGHT” (Proverbs 3: 5).

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