



Arbroath Old and Abbey Church of Scotland



Dear Fellow Members,

April 2021

Open for Worship

I am pleased to be writing to you to let you know that the Church will reopen for Sunday Morning Worship from **Sunday 25th April 2020**. However, as was the case last September when you come to church you will find Covid 19 procedures in place.

These restrictions are there first and foremost for your safety and in order that we are complying with the guidelines set out by the Scottish Government and the Church of Scotland. Many of these changes are now very familiar to us but there are additional measures particularly relevant for places of worship.

Here is a list of the new procedures

- **Facemasks** must be worn at all times
- **2 metre distancing** must be maintained and physical contact avoided
- **Hand - Sanitisers** are in place and must be used on entry and exit.
- **Test and Protect** arrangements mean that your contact details will be recorded.
- **Comfortable Seating** is set out and you will be directed to a seat - *couples / families from the same household may sit together*
- **Numbers** attending worship is limited to **35** (**40** *where couples sit together*)
- **Hymn Singing** is not permitted but we will play hymns / other appropriate music
- **Offerings/ FWO Envelopes** should be placed in the offering plate on entry *alternatively we can help you to donate by standing order or online.*
- **Teas/ Coffees** will not be available before or after worship
- **Single occupancy of toilets.** new locks have been fitted in the inside door of the toilets to ensure that only one person is in the toilet area at a time.

Services will take place in the **Church Hall** to allow for all these measures to be complied with and to ensure that the cleaning of the rooms and surfaces can be undertaken thoroughly and safely on your behalf.

I would like nothing more than to be able to welcome everyone back to church on a Sunday morning however with numbers restricted, we all know that for now that is just not possible. I am therefore going to continue to provide **Morning Worship Online** which you can access through the Church Website or Facebook page.

A Note of Caution

The Kirk Session and I understand that **not everyone** will feel comfortable about coming back to Church at this time and we would urge **caution**. Please think very carefully about any existing health conditions, especially respiratory, that you may have before you decide to attend church.

Book Your place

We have a booking system in place therefore we would ask that you telephone the church office (**01241 877068**) on Friday morning between 10 am and 12 noon if you intend to come to church. This will help us to ensure that we are able to accommodate everybody. Moira will be back in the church office from 23rd April on a Friday morning only until the summer.

On the first week back, **25th April** we will celebrate **Communion** therefore I am offering two services that Sunday one at **11a.m.** and one at **3p.m.** to accommodate everyone who wishes to attend.

I recognise that none of the above seems very welcoming but pleased be assured that the Elders on duty are looking forward to welcoming you and will assist you as you navigate your way through the new procedures.

Yours faithfully

Dolly Purnell

Rev. Dolly Purnell

Moira Steven
Dolly Purnell

Office Administrator
Minister

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