

COVID MEASURES

Ventilation of the Church & Halls

- To maintain adequate ventilation of the sanctuary we require to maintain the vestibule door in a partially open position. Whilst the church will continue to be heated members may wish to dress for cooler temperatures particularly in the winter months.
- Church groups and non-church groups using the church halls should ventilate the relevant room by opening windows (or door if required) before and during the meeting.

Illness and Church Attendance

- Members who develop any Covid-19 symptoms particularly fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, and loss of taste/smell should not attend church services or meetings.
- Members who test positive for Covid-19 should refrain from attending until 10 days have passed or until they have had 2 consecutive negative daily lateral flow tests, whichever is the sooner.
- Members who are household contacts of a confirmed Covid case should also refrain from attending.
- If in the two days after attendance at worship a member discovers they are Covid positive, they should notify the church through the session clerk or administration convenor.

Hand Sanitizing Gel on Entry to the Church Building

- Hand gel dispensers are wall mounted inside all the entrance doors of the church and church halls, and we ask that all members continue to apply hand gel on entry to the church and the church halls. Members may bring and apply their own gel if they so prefer.

Face coverings

- Whilst face coverings (masks) are no longer mandatory, and now left to individuals' discretion, members are encouraged to continue to use them in the church and halls to enhance their own and others' protection, particularly those members who are in "at-risk" groups. There is usually a box of masks in the vestibule for members who have forgotten to bring their own.

Distancing

- The front 2 pews across the downstairs sanctuary and the pews in the middle section of the gallery are reserved for those who wish to maintain at least one metre distancing between household groups.
- Whilst distancing is not enforced in other areas of the church members should be mindful that distancing remains a helpful preventative measure in reducing spread of the virus.

Church cleaning

- An enhanced programme of church sanctuary cleaning has been conducted during the pandemic and continues in a more restricted form to minimize transmission risk from common touch points.

- We ask groups (church & non-church) using any of our rooms to wipe down seats and common touch points like door knobs and light switches at the end of their meetings. Cleaning materials are provided.

Church offering

- We have avoided passing an offering plate round the church during the pandemic and this remains the case. Members may place their Free Will Offering Envelope or open plate donation in the plate behind the rear centre pew downstairs on entry to the church. Alternatively members may wish to set up a direct debit transfer-please contact the church secretary or income coordinator regarding this.
- Welcome team members involved in counting the offering should consider the use of disposable gloves (provided), and wash their hands after completion of the count.

Communion Services

- During the pandemic we have practised a modified Communion service to avoid distribution of the elements involving multiple contacts during the service. This remains the case at the present time.

Pastoral Care Work

- Pastoral care visits have resumed. If you would like a pastoral care visit from one of the team please speak to your district elder.
- When pastoral care team members are conducting visits they should have no Covid symptoms, sanitise their hands pre-visit and offer to wear a face covering if the member prefers this.
- If visits are being undertaken to members in a care home or hospital a lateral flow test should be taken by the visitor pre-visit.

Covid Measures out with the Church

Covid remains prevalent in the community with a recent estimated prevalence of active infection of 1 in 40 of the population in Scotland. In order to minimize risk to themselves, and limit community transmission, we recommend members-

- Participate fully in the national vaccination programme
- Consider wearing face coverings in indoor public places and on public transport
- Practise good hand hygiene
- Ensure windows are open where feasible when meeting with others indoors
- Check a lateral flow test prior to visiting anyone in a care home or hospital

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