

Kintore Parish Church of Scotland

SC001406 Registered Scottish Charity

23 March 2021

Dear friends,

As my last letter to you was only a month ago this is simply a follow-up letter to accompany the free-will offering envelopes and to advise you about our plans to reopen the church building for worship.

Planned Giving

As I said in my letter last month, your ongoing financial support for the church as well as the many things that you and others do to advance God's Kingdom of grace and love, peace and justice are all deeply, deeply appreciated.

At this time of year we restart our annual free-will offering cycle. If you already contribute according to a regular giving plan by direct debit or by returning free-will envelopes, thank you for your ongoing support. If you have not yet signed up to our free-will offering plan, then may I ask you to consider making a regular contribution to the church? By making a regular contribution – whether weekly or monthly – you make it possible for us to anticipate our income more accurately and that in turn helps us to practice good stewardship.

Please contact our Treasurer, Graham Lamb, at grahamlamb87@gmail.com or the leader of our Finance Committee Vicki Graham on 01467-632363 to find out how to become part of our free-will offering / planned giving scheme. They will also be able to help you make the most of your planned giving by utilising Gift-Aid. You can also contact Graham or Vicki if you no longer require free-will giving envelopes, either because you have moved to direct debits or for any other reason.

Church Reopening

Following the latest Scottish Government advice and Church of Scotland guidance, we have decided to reopen the church building for in-person worship from Easter Sunday, 4th April 2021. As numbers in the building will again be limited to 26 households (50 people max) we will continue to worship concurrently on Zoom and in-person for the foreseeable future. The procedures for you if you would like to attend in-person worship will be the same as they were when we opened in the Autumn.

We have taken every precaution to ensure that it will be safe for you to attend.

Time: We encourage you not to come too early as we will only begin admitting people into the sanctuary at about 9:45am. The service is likely to last just over 40 minutes.

Booking: As attendance is limited and needs to be recorded for the benefit of the Scottish Government's Test and Protect Strategy, we will operate a booking system. You can book your place by phoning Jane McIntosh at 01224-791 688 on the previous Tuesday or Wednesday between 5:30pm and 7:30pm. Jane will record your name and contact details and give you some information about what to expect when you attend.

Preparing: If you have experienced any Covid-19 symptoms (a new and continuous cough, a high temperature, a loss or change in your normal sense of smell or taste) in the week preceding the Sunday or on the day, please do not attend and, if possible, let Jane know that you won't be there. Please follow the advice from NHS Scotland to deal with your symptoms.

Everyone attending will be required to wear a face-covering.

At church: On arrival you will be ushered to a designated seat in the church. Members of the same household will be able to sit together. We are operating a one-way system through the church and you are requested to keep a safe distance from others throughout your time in the building.

Offerings will be collected on entry.

Face coverings are to be worn throughout the service. If you do not have one, we will have some disposable masks available at the door. Those leading worship will be able to remove theirs while doing so from the lectern.

There will be music but no singing during the service.

Toilet facilities will be available subject to controlled distancing down the corridor.

At the end of the service please remain seated in your pew until you are ushered to leave via our one-way system.

We are unfortunately unable to offer teas and coffees and you are kindly asked not to congregate outside after worship.

I'm sorry if this all sounds rather formal and impersonal but we must follow government regulations and your safety is our first priority.

With much love,

Rev Neil Meyer

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