

Peterculter Parish Church

Newsletter

From The Manse

Dear Friends,

I am writing to update you on the re-opening of the church.

The Kirk Session have agreed that we would seek to return to public worship next month. This is, of course, subject to review and we are all well aware that the present situation can change quickly.

Assuming it is possible, it was agreed that our first service back will take place on Thursday September 10th at 10.30 am, with another week day service taking place on Thursday September 17th at the same time. We will then switch to Sunday worship only every week, with the first service taking place on Sunday September 20th at 10.30 am

We estimate that the sanctuary can accommodate 45 people with social distancing measures in place, depending on how many people attend individually or in family groups. In light of this, we will be introducing a pre-registration booking system.

The worship will be a normal service, other than the fact that there will not be any singing, which means it will be shorter than normal at around 30 – 40 minutes. The church will be thoroughly cleaned before every service. In this newsletter you will find some guidelines, including the details about pre-booking your attendance. It is important to stress that it is up to individuals as to whether or not they wish to attend, but should someone have an underlying health condition or showing any symptoms relating to Covid 19, they should not attend church. Children are welcome to attend and sit initially in their family groups.

The online worship services are planned to continue until the end of September, when they will be reviewed.

At the moment, church groups and external groups cannot meet, unless it is just 8 people from 3 households, which rules out most groups.

This is certainly not church as we knew it and I fully understand that many people will opt not to attend under these circumstances. Nevertheless, I feel it is important to give people a choice and be able to

come together and worship God in these difficult and challenging days.

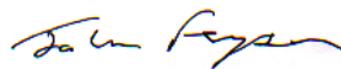
I can also let you know that the Bible Study Group will be meeting by Zoom on September 3rd, 17th, October 1st, 29th, November 12th and 26th at 7.00 pm. I very much hope that although we will almost certainly need to begin via Zoom, that we can meet in person further down the line. If you would like to join in, please let me know.

I would like to thank everyone for their continuing generosity in continuing to support the work of the church financially. We continue to expect a large deficit at the end of the year, but thanks to your support, it looks as if it will not be as bad as first feared.

Please note that the church office will continue to be closed and so do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries. Please also get in touch if you have any pastoral needs or know of someone who does, and I will be happy to give them a phone call.

I hope that you and your family are well and please be assured that the church family and our parish are very much in my prayers at this time.

With all best wishes,



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Funerals:

- ♦ 17th July 2020 - Bill Ellis, Hillside Crescent
- ♦ 11th August 2020 - Ronald Fraser, Maryculter

What Can I Expect When I Return To Church?

We have outlined below how we shall have to operate to comply with the Church of Scotland regulations, which have been set out to conform with the Scottish Government requirements.

- A maximum of 45 people will be allowed in the church to ensure we maintain safe physical distancing. This number includes the minister, stewards, organist and projector operator. This figure may be less; it depends on how many people attend individually and in family groups.
- Due to the restriction on numbers in the church you will have to reserve a place for Sunday services. This can be done by telephoning the Church Office on 01224 735845 or emailing secretary@culterkirk.co.uk by Friday at 12 noon. If there is no place available for the next Sunday, you will be placed on the reservations list for the following Sunday. If there is no answer on the office phone, please leave a message.
- Names and contact numbers will be recorded and retained for 28 days for Test and Protect

requirements. All data will be held in accordance with data protection laws and destroyed after the 28 day period.

- We are asking that you please wear a face mask or face covering in the church - this is mandatory.
- You will be required to sanitise your hands before entering and on leaving the church.
- You may have to queue along the front of the church, maintaining physical distancing before being invited to enter.
- The doors will be remaining open until the service starts to reduce touch points.
- You will be shown to your seat to ensure physical distancing and all seats will have been sanitised before the service.
- Please remain in your allocated seat and, at the end of the service, please remain seated until a steward indicates you may leave
- There will be no singing.
- All bibles and hymn books have been removed from the chairs.
- A collection plate will be available at the door as you enter.
- There will be no teas/coffees following the service.

Helen Brown's 100th Birthday

The Boys' Brigade paid tribute outside Coronation Court on 18th August on the occasion of Helen Brown's 100th birthday. The Brown family has been associated with the BB since around the 1930s when Helen's brothers first joined the 47th Company.

Helen is our oldest church member and she is a wonderful character. She has many a story to tell and her knowledge about the history of Culter is second to none. It's great that, despite all the restrictions, she still had a wonderful day.

