

CLT Update 18th July 2021

Dear Friends

As promised here is an update on returning to the church building. There is a lot of information here so please read carefully and keep for reference.

We will be commencing services in the church building from next Sunday 25th July.

As throughout the pandemic, emphasis in returning to the building at this time is on managing risk. We have also taken into account the feedback that we received from the recent questionnaire and thank those of you who returned the questionnaire.

In line with what official advice is, the move is toward taking responsibility to manage our own individual risk. However, there are some risk avoiding measures we will continue to take in church for the time being as detailed below. We are very conscious that not everyone will want to return to the building or feel able to. We will therefore continue to provide a simplified on-line service each week at least over the summer period. Our church services will also be shorter over the summer.

Coming to Church

- **IMPORTANT** - if you are self-isolating, showing Covid symptoms or are otherwise feeling unwell, then you **MUST NOT** attend a service.
- Coming into church is your own decision. No one is expecting you to come or saying you should come and if you would rather stay at home that is completely fine.
- It is your own decision whether you use the **Track and Trace** app on your phone. However, everyone entering the building must either scan the QR code with their phone or sign the attendance sheet so we can contact you in the event of any adverse notification. These sheets will be kept for 21 days then destroyed.
- We are insisting that **face masks** are worn by everyone aged 11 or over when inside the building. The band and those speaking from the front may remove their masks to perform their duties.
- **Singing** quietly with your mask on will be allowed.

- **Hand sanitiser** will be available at the entrance for your use. The sensible rules of not touching your face with unclean hands apply when there is contact with surfaces in Church. The risk of catching Covid from touching surfaces is actually very low (estimated 1:10,000 reference available if you want it).
- Please be aware and sensitive to the fact that not everyone will be happy to handshake or hug. Please be understanding and do not be offended if someone makes it clear they wish to avoid such contact.
- For the next few weeks we will not be serving refreshments after the service.
- **Seating** will be arranged in the normal rows. It is your choice whether you sit next to people or leave a gap. If you wish there to be a gap between you and the next person, then we suggest you place an item of yours on the seat to indicate it is used.
- **Offerings** - following a long period of not meeting you may wish to make up offerings or begin to give offerings again. We will have a single basket for offerings available at the back of the church. We will not be using the bags for a while.
- We will not be using the “pew” Bibles and we would strongly encourage you to bring your own Bible so you can see the word and look again when you get home.
- **Before and after the service chat** - we recognise that not everyone who comes to the service will want to or feel safe to chat in close proximity with others. Please be sensitive to this and not offended if someone steps away. Please do not stand and chat in the church foyer.
- Will we will keep the church well ventilated by keeping doors open.

Toilets

- All toilets have instructions clearly shown regarding sanitising them before and after use. Please follow these instructions to make those following you feel safe and comfortable in using these facilities.
- **NOTE - the only toilets available for congregational use are the one in the entrance foyer at the church and the ones in the entrance foyer of the Livingstone Hall.**
- Toilets by the kitchen and up the stairs are for youth and children’s use only.

On-line service

There will continue to be a simplified on-line service available as at present for those who wish to access it. This will usually include the same talk as will be heard by those in the church.

Coffee Zoom

Zoom Coffee will continue to be available at 11am using the same login as at present. There will not be a host as such, so it is up to those using it to choose when to finish. We expect there will be fewer people on the Coffee Zoom as some will be in the church service, so please be aware of this.

There is a lot of information in this letter. We are so pleased we have reached this point where we can meet in person again but to do so is a decision you must make for yourself. We will try and make it as safe as possible and that relies on everyone attending sticking to the guidelines we have given here. As Christian brothers and sisters we should be particularly caring and looking out for each other. Let us enter into this new phase in that spirit and bless one another as we join to praise God.

CLT