

10<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Friends,

The good news is that the Vestry has met and agreed to re-open for worship beginning on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

We have all adapted to a different way of life over the last four months, so hopefully coming to church, which will be very different, will be easy to adjust to. What matters is that we can worship together and see each other, while physically distancing. How lovely it will be to 'worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness' (Ps 96. 9a) with our St. Cuthbert's family.

So now for the less than inviting, but essential, do's and don'ts.

Services will take place on Wednesday at 10.30am and Sunday at 10.30am, lasting approximately 30-40 minutes. Both these services will be the same and it is hoped that Wednesday's service will be recorded and put onto YouTube for Sunday, giving more people the opportunity to participate. We will continue to send out the orders of service by email and post.

As numbers are very limited, (currently 28 maximum, including priest, organist and 4 welcomers) you will need to book to attend. You can either email to book on [stcuthbertscomms@gmail.com](mailto:stcuthbertscomms@gmail.com), or telephone 07305 911986, Monday – Wednesday between 10am and 1pm (please leave a message if there is no answer).

Couples and families will sit together, individuals will be in a pew alone; all maintaining the advised physical distancing. To give everyone who wishes to attend the opportunity to do so, bookings will **not** be taken on a first come, first served. You will receive a call or email back confirming your booking. To give everyone the opportunity to attend, it is likely that you will be able to attend 1 in 4 services, if the usual congregation asks to attend.

Instructions for children attending Sunday School will be issued separately.

How we attend:

At this point, face coverings must be worn for attending worship.

As you walk toward the main entrance door, please maintain physical distancing. (Currently 2 metres).

You will be met by a welcomer outside, who will ask you to use the hand sanitizer at the entrance and read the notices on the board.

After entering the glass doors, please collect your own order of service (which you take home afterwards for reflection / disposal) and a welcomer will guide you to your seat. We will fill up the church from the furthest seats first, bearing in mind people's physical limitations.

When you are in your seats, please remain in them until the end of the service.

We are not able to have any physical contact, so a smile or bow can be a lovely way to greet your friends. This will be the same during The Peace. You can, of course, share The Peace with those you live with.

We will be able to enjoy wonderful music with Philip playing the organ but I'm afraid we cannot sing. The words will be printed for you to reflect on, as we listen to Philip. Remain seated for hymns.

Communion will be received in one form only and the priest will bring it to you, at your seat. Please open your palms for the wafer to be dropped into it. To administer Communion, the priest will use hand sanitizer before putting on a mask and will then use the sanitizer again before distributing the wafers.

At the end of the service we will vacate the church with those nearest the door leaving first. As a one-way system is in place, we will exit through the choir vestry door, behind the organ. Please remain in your seat until you are invited to leave. Use the hand sanitizer as you exit and, as much as we all want to chat with friends, please try not to gather at the door, as the physical distancing rules still apply. Our gardens are large and beautiful, so please use them for catching up while maintaining physical distancing rules. Sadly, we are unable to serve refreshments, or organize outdoor socializing following the service, as we are limited to five families meeting with a maximum of 15 people.

(Maybe you could organize your own social events, outdoors, to meet up with church friends to support Christian Aid throughout August).

If possible, please avoid using the toilets. If, however, you need to, speak to a welcomer, who will assist you. Also bring water to drink if you think you may need it during the service.

For the health and safety of worshippers and staff, we have to record the name and contact details of everyone who enters to support NHS Scotland's

Test and Protect. This information will be used to enable NHS Scotland to contact you should you have been in the church building around the same time as someone who has tested positive for coronavirus. Contacting people who might have been exposed to the virus is an important step in stopping the spread. As you have to 'book in' to attend church, that register will be at each service for the welcomer to check that you did attend. We will then keep that on file in the office for 21 days.

Please do not attend worship if any of the following apply:

- If a person is symptomatic (showing symptoms of COVID-19 infection) or has tested positive for COVID-19 they must not attend a place of worship during the period they are required to self-isolate due to the risk that they pose to others. This includes individuals who work at the place of worship;
- If a person is not symptomatic or a confirmed COVID-19 case, but is self-isolating due to another member of their household either showing symptoms of COVID-19 or their household member has tested positive for COVID-19, that person must not attend a place of worship. They should instead continue to follow household self-isolation advice;
- If person is not symptomatic or a confirmed COVID-19 case, but is self-isolating as a result of other contact (identified through contact tracing), they must not attend a place of worship. This person should instead follow all contact tracing and self-isolation advice provided to them.

Obviously, all these rules can change at any time and we will adjust accordingly. This also means that the church could be closed for worship at some point in the future. We will continue to follow government and SEC guidelines to keep you safe.

All these instructions may put you off but please be assured we will do everything within our power to make your worshipping experience a good one. It will be so lovely to see people in the pews again, as the family of God, worshipping together.

Love and blessings.

Nicki