

The times they keep a changin'...

Well at last it seems that we are on the cusp of opening up our church buildings, in the first instance for limited numbers of people for worship.

Following some extensive work by groups from both Dalmeny and Queensferry Churches we now have the necessary permissions for opening up. Our thanks are due to such folks.

This has involved us in developing the systems of movement for our coming and going, the preparations of risk assessments, the provision of signage and hand sanitisers as well as lining up the duty teams to ensure a safe, warm and cheery welcome! Permission has now been granted for us **at Queensferry Church** to open up access to our live-streaming service – this for around 35 people and we plan to begin this on **Palm Sunday the 28th March 2021**, this is of course subject to any changes in Scottish Government guidelines.

Likewise permission has been granted for us to open up at **Dalmeny Kirk** and it is our intention to hold a service led by David at **11.00am on Easter Sunday, the 4th of April**. At a recent meeting of the Kirk session we have committed to consulting with those who come to Dalmeny in order to

discern what pattern of gathering might follow in the weeks ahead. Around 30 people will be able to gather at Dalmeny.

The experience will, for the foreseeable future, be very different from our 'normal' gatherings pre-covid. As well as masks having to be worn throughout, hand sanitizing is required on entry and exit, social distancing must be maintained, before during and after the service and no singing is permitted.




The Church of Scotland

Welcome to Church

For your safety please be aware of the following:

Symptoms

If you display any of these symptoms please do not enter our building and return home immediately-

- persistent coughing
- high temperature
- loss of taste or smell

Face coverings

You are required to wear a face mask when in our building (unless you cannot do so for medical reasons)

Contact details

We will ask for your name and contact details to support NHS Scotland's Test and Protect System.

Moving around

We may ask you to sit in a particular seat and move in a particular direction around our building

Hand hygiene

Please wash hands regularly and use hand sanitiser when entering or exiting our building

Physical contact

Please avoid physical contact with people outside of your own household

Distancing

Please maintain appropriate physical distancing based on current guidelines

Toilets

Please note that toilets may not be open. If they are entry may be restricted to maintain distancing.

Further information:

www.churchofscotland.org.uk

Scottish Charity Number: SC011353

Sundays at 10.30am in Queensferry Parish Church as part of the live-stream congregation.

So you will have read that we have been given permission to open up our sanctuary at Queensferry Parish Church – that's the good news – the not-so-good news is that there are a number of guidelines which we have to follow resulting, perhaps, in the experience being very different from what we have been used to. Our aim here is to provide details of how we will manage this to ensure we comply with Scottish Government Guidelines and ensure that your health and safety is secure.

A Covid questionnaire, which has been compiled by Presbytery, is set out within the latest edition of Inside Out - No 8 and we would ask you all to review it and ascertain whether you feel comfortable returning to Church at this time. **This is a decision for you alone.**

Due to restricted numbers (**approximately 35**) we will require you to either email or call the Church office each week **before Thursday at 6.00pm** requesting seats for the Sunday. We will also require you to provide your name, telephone number and the number of seats required. We will then confirm either by email or telephone call that your request has been successful.

The email address is: **office@qpcweb.org** and our telephone number is **0131 331 1100**. Should requests exceed our numbers we will offer you the following Sunday.

We will require all to wear a mask throughout the service and no singing by the congregation is allowed so it is going to be a very different experience. You will be attending the live-stream service we conduct every Sunday at 10.30a.m. and music is certainly a major part of that. We would also mention in adhering to Church of Scotland Guidelines, we have removed the pew cushions and bibles from the Sanctuary and the doors into the Queen Margaret Hall will be open so that the windows there can be open for ventilation, thereby improving air circulation.

Entry will be via the disabled access pathway at the side of the Church and you will be welcomed outside by one of our team. They will ask the relative Covid questions and then you will be guided into the vestibule where your name and contact details will be checked. If you have forgotten your mask there will be masks available at this point. You will be asked to sanitise your hands before entering the Sanctuary. There you will be met and guided to a seat where we will ask you to remain throughout the service.

At the end of the service you will be asked to leave the Church row by row through the opposite door you arrived through and a member of the team will do this to ensure everyone remains seated until their turn arrives. Again you will be asked to sanitise your hands as you leave and exit the Church and grounds again using the disabled access walkway. A short video has been prepared and we would invite you, if it is possible, to view it on our website before coming along.

Unfortunately to maintain social distancing there will be no opportunity to chat after the service.



**DESPITE THE OBVIOUS NEED FOR
SOME RESTRICTIONS WE ARE
REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO
WELCOMING YOU BACK AND TO
SEEING YOU ONCE AGAIN.**

***'I REJOICED WITH THOSE WHO SAID
TO ME,
'LET US GO TO THE HOUSE OF
THE LORD.'***

PSALM 122 VS 1