

# WELCOME BACK to CHURCH!

## July 2020

Dear All,

At last, we are able to meet together in our church building, albeit with Covid-19 restrictions in place. Session and committee have been working hard to ensure that it will be as safe as possible for people to return to church. It will be a bit different to what we have all been used to in the past, so we want to let you know what to expect! Gary will be posting a walk-around video online which will prepare you visually. We will be testing the waters for the first 3 Sundays of July in that the service will be pre-recorded and available to view online at home but will be shown on screen in the church for those who would like to meet with others or have difficulty accessing service online. It is hoped to resume services in the church from **26<sup>th</sup> July 2020**.

Following are a few points to note:

- **Please do not attend** church if you feel unwell or have a raised temperature, if you have been in contact with anyone currently being tested for Covid-19 or who has tested positive for Covid-19 in previous 14 days or if you have been in contact with anyone who has been travelling in an area with high infection rate. Ushers will ask you to confirm these facts as you enter the church. If you feel you are medically vulnerable due to any underlying condition, we advise you not to attend. Please check with your GP if you are in doubt.
- **Managing numbers** will become more important as more people return to church. There is an online booking form on the website but if you prefer, you can just let your elder know you are planning to come and they will fill in your name. We hope to have enough room for everyone who wants to come with an overflow in the hall so it is unlikely that we will need to turn people away. However, the situation will be under constant review.
- **Social distancing** – please maintain the required 2 metre social distancing space between you and people from another household both inside and outside the building. To help you with this, the ground outside the church has been marked with 2m spacing and every second pew has been taped off. A one-way system for entry and exit of buildings is being implemented to avoid people passing each other in narrow spaces. Ushers will assist with seating and will remind people to keep their distance from each other. Members of same household can, of course, sit together. If at any point during a service, you feel uncomfortably close to others, please feel free to move to a different seat. Sadly, no handshakes, hugs or friendly kisses allowed!
- **Contact Tracing** – ushers will note the name of everyone attending each Sunday for contact tracing purposes.
- **Hand sanitizer** will be provided at entry and exit points. Please use these as you enter and leave the building.

- **Mission Praise books and Bibles** have been removed from pews. Bible readings will be shown on screen as previously, but you will need to **bring your own Bible** if you like to refer to passage during sermon.
- **Masks** should be worn in church and hall. Please bring your own mask with you. Disposable masks will be available if required.
- **Communal singing** is not advised but there will be music and possibly one singer at front of church. Please feel free to hum along!
- **Toilets** will be open for emergency use only. However, if possible, please avoid using toilets. Cleansing wipes will be available for you to wipe down any surfaces you touch.
- **Offering plates** will be placed at the exit door. However, we would encourage people to give by standing order to avoid cash having to be counted.
- **Tea & Coffee** will **not** be provided after church for the foreseeable future. We would ask people not to linger in the building after the service or congregate outside.
- **Sunday Club** is suspended for the time being and there will be no Creche or Children's Programme for the summer. Instead, we will have a service suitable for **All Ages** for the coming months.
- **Covid Isolation room and First Aid** – a full set of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be available for first aiders in case of a medical emergency. The Minister's room has been identified as an isolation room. If anyone experiences Covid-like symptoms during a service, they should indicate this to Gary or an usher and proceed immediately to isolation room.
- **Cleaning** will take place every time the buildings are used. Cleaning materials and a checklist will be provided to ensure thoroughness and consistency.
- **Home Groups** cannot meet in homes at this time. They can continue using Zoom or can meet in the hall where social distancing will be possible. Leaders should book the hall by contacting Caroline Foster – 086 8162099. The kitchen will not be available, so people need to bring their own drinks and snacks. The leader will be responsible for cleaning all areas used and will need to sign off the cleaning checklist.
- **Keybox** – if the key from keybox is used, the key and the keybox will need to be cleaned after use.
- **How do we stay in touch?**  
 We will continue to monitor the situation and advise you of any changes that may be necessary. It is important to check the website regularly – [www.greystonespc.org](http://www.greystonespc.org).  
 If you are on Facebook, please "Like" our page – Greystones Presbyterian Church.  
 You can also subscribe to our email list via the website (click on the sub-heading "Newletters" on the home page) to ensure you receive updates by email or contact Bobby Davison on [davison.129@gmail.com](mailto:davison.129@gmail.com).  
 If you have any questions, please contact your elder or Gary on 0858714786.

This is a new situation for all of us so please bear with us as we attempt to assess risks, abide by the rules, foster good routines and encourage individual responsibility. We need to adhere to all Government and Community Health Guidelines in order to keep ourselves and each other safe and well. As we adjust to new ways of behaving and being together, let us ask God to bless us as a community of believers. We can do this with His help!

**From GPC Committee**