

28 July 2020

Dear Church Member and Friend

We are thankful to God for all his blessings to us over the last months of lockdown and for the technology and the skills and expertise of all those people who have made 2nd Dromara @ Home possible. But we have missed being able to meet together as a church family as Jesus' followers are meant to do, so we are thankful also that we can now meet once again in the church building to honour and glorify God. Our first Sunday back together again, God willing, will be Sunday 6th September at 11.30am.

While we would love to see as many people join us as possible on 6th September, no one should feel they must rush back. We know that some people will be unable to join us because of shielding and others may continue to have genuine concerns. However, we do want everyone to feel very much part of our church family, whether in the church building or at home or some other place - ALL loved, ALL cared for and ALL equally valued - so we will be live streaming our services. This means that anyone with an internet connection will be able to join us each Sunday at 11.30am – just click on the relevant link on the church Facebook page or website. Afterwards a recording of the service will be available on Facebook and the website so, if you weren't able to join us live, you can still watch and listen to it at a later date. And for those without internet, we will continue to make our services available on the phone as has been the case during lockdown.

For those who are able to come along on 6th September, or any Sunday after that date until further notice, we have set out below the arrangements that will be in place. We are also producing a short video which will walk through the arrangements so you have an idea what to expect. The video will be available soon on our website and Facebook page – keep an eye out for it. We hope these will be helpful to you and go some way to allaying any concerns you might have, but if you have any questions or would like some more information, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the Kirk Session or Committee.

ARRIVAL

- Please remember, if you have any of the symptoms of Covid-19 (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of taste or smell) or you have been in contact with anyone who has these symptoms, do not come to church. Please also let Kenny know if you have been at a church service and afterwards test positive for Covid-19. As always, Kenny will keep the details of who is ill strictly confidential, but it will be necessary for us to carry out a deep clean to the building.

- Social distancing of 2 meters must be observed both in the car park and inside the church building and there will be signs to remind everyone of this requirement.
- So that the service can start punctually at 11.30am please arrive in plenty of time. We want to minimize the possibility of people having to queue, but it may be necessary, particularly if a lot of people arrive together or at the last minute.
- Because of the need to ensure social distancing, you may have to wait in your car or outside the church for a few minutes so don't forget your coat and/or umbrella. Good practice suggests that buildings where people are gathered should be well ventilated so please remember that, while the heat will be on it may be colder than normal inside the church so wrap up warmly.
- There will be space for those who have mobility difficulties to continue to park beside the church. If you have mobility difficulties, you will not have to queue. To facilitate social distancing and ensure their safety as people wait to enter the church, we would kindly ask everyone else to use the large main car park.
- Members of the same household should arrive together if possible so that you can be seated together in the church, in order to maximize the use of the limited space.
- There will be a steward in the main car park and when you arrive at the church gates, you will be met by a steward who will explain the precautions that are in place and will show you where to go.

INSIDE THE BUILDING

- When it is your turn to enter the church building, please use the sanitizing gel which will be available on the hall table (or use your own if you would prefer) and wait for a steward to show you where to sit.
- While currently it is not compulsory, we would recommend that all those attending church wear some form of face covering or a facemask while inside the building. You may wish to bring your own face covering or facemask, but if you forget, disposable masks will be available in the hall beside the sanitizing gel. We will also provide disposable gloves for anyone who wishes to wear them.
- There will be a container in the hall in which you can place your offering, if you wish to contribute to God's work. Regretfully there will be no sweets unless you bring your own!
- It is unlikely that you will be able to sit in your normal place. In order to ensure 2 meters social distancing some pews will be cordoned off and we will be seating people from the front to the back down both aisles and in the balcony. Once

seated please remain in your seat. If you have children with you, please make sure they stay beside you.

- If the meeting house is full, we will use the church hall as an overflow. If this is the case, the stewards will guide you to a seat in the hall, which has also been set out to ensure 2 meters social distancing. There will be an audio and video link from the church to the hall so that everyone can participate fully in the service.
- All toilets will be closed with the exception of the female toilet in the church hall, which, during this period, will be designated as unisex. Disinfectant wipes will be available in the toilet. Please use them to wipe door handles, taps etc. before and after use and dispose of them in the bin provided. Hand wash, warm water and paper towels will be provided. Please remember the 20 second rule when washing your hands.

THE SERVICE

- The format of the service will be similar to those we have enjoyed with 2nd Dromara @ Home. There will be a welcome, prayers, hymns and praise songs, a Bible reading, children's time and a Bible talk.
- Kenny will remain in the pulpit for the whole service and will be at least 4 meters distant from the next person. He will not leave the pulpit, as would normally be the case, to shake hands with people as they leave.
- In the interests of safety, pew Bibles and hymn books have been removed. As you know we always encourage you to follow the talk using a pew Bible, so since there won't be one available in church, please do bring your own Bible with you.
- As has been the case with 2nd Dromara @ Home, we hope that members of the church family will be able to do the Bible reading and lead the intercessory prayer, so the lecterns will be set up at the front of the church for this purpose (ensuring the required social distance). Anyone who is taking part in the service will be told in advance how this will be managed to maintain social distance.
- Unfortunately we will not be able to play the organ or piano and there will be no choir. Instead we will use videos (like those used in 2nd Dromara @ Home) and the words will be on the screen so that we will be able to sing along quietly. We will remain seated while singing.
- The service will last approximately 45 minutes.
- If you need to leave the meeting house (or church hall if in use) at any time during the service and will be passing less than 2 meters from other people please ensure you are wearing a face mask.

- A note will be kept of everyone who is present at a service for track and trace purposes if necessary.

CHILDREN

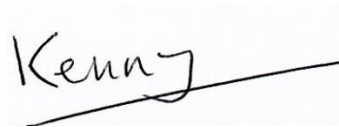
- Unfortunately we will not be able to provide a crèche at this time.
- There will be a children's talk and song during the service as normal, but the children must remain with their family and not come to the front.
- We know that young children in particular can become restless during the service. There will be a selection of worksheets and colouring pages linked to the Bible talk on the church website which you can download (or feel free to bring along your own). Please also bring your own colouring pencils.
- During September there will be no Children's Church or Shine on Sunday. God willing, we plan to restart Shine on Sunday on Sunday 4th October. It will be held in the Connect Hall (which has been kindly granted). If your child is in the age range for Nursery through to Year 7, you can drop them off at the Connect Hall from 11.15am and pick them up after the service. More details of the arrangements will be made available to parents nearer the time.

LEAVING

- At the end of the service, please remain in your seat and the stewards will direct you how to leave safely.
- Please move away quickly from the main door so that queues do not form. Please also remember to maintain social distance as you go to your cars.

In conclusion, may I say how much we are looking forward to welcoming as many people as feel able to come to our services. I appreciate that the above arrangements may seem cumbersome, but they have been devised to ensure that we will be safe and that we will feel safe. We want everyone to enjoy this time together again on Sunday mornings as we praise and worship God and be encouraged by meeting together again as a church family in 2nd Dromara.

Your friend in Christ



On behalf of the Kirk Session