

To the members of High Street Congregation: August 2020:

As you are all aware, our Church has not been open for services since March this year. We know there is a desire among many of you to meet together again. However, there are also some who will be feeling hesitant about meeting. Therefore our aim is to attempt to balance both of these perspectives and move forward with caution.

High Street Kirk Session has agreed, along with all congregations in Templepatrick Presbytery, to aim towards Sunday 6 September as the date for resuming weekly Sunday services. There will be some changes to the format of services.

On Wednesday 19 August we received advice on face coverings, which was a result of consultations between public health authorities and the four main Churches. The advice is as follows:

.... the Presbyterian Church in Ireland joins with Christian church leaders all over this island in formally recommending and encouraging the use of face coverings at all services of worship, along with the ongoing maintenance of 2 metre physical distancing, from Sunday 30th August 2020, and earlier if practicable.

We therefore encourage all attending services, or any other meetings, over the age of 13, to bring face coverings. These will also be provided for visitors or those who forget to bring them along. However this does not apply to those who are exempt from wearing face coverings for medical reasons. Other requirements are:

- 1. When entering the Church car park and the church, everyone needs to be aware of strict social distancing at 2 metres.**
- 2. When coming in the Church doors there will be a clearly marked one-way system and automatic hand sanitising station which everyone must use.**
- 3. Names and phone numbers will be noted down.**
- 4. An Elder will show you to a seat in accordance with social distancing guidelines and your own family bubble. Please note that individuals choosing where to sit is not an option under the current circumstances.**

The process outlined above is subject to any changes taking place in regulations. Initially it will be difficult for us to accurately determine the numbers able to attend worship. It may become necessary for us to initiate a process to limit numbers.

Please note that if you are displaying any of the symptoms of COVID-19 or have been in close contact with anyone displaying such symptoms, do not attend services in the meantime. Also do not feel under any pressure to be present if you are uncomfortable about any aspect of attending.

From September we plan to live stream the services and these will be available on YouTube. Please follow the link from our website (highstchurch.org) or directly from YouTube (High Street Presbyterian, Antrim).

Unfortunately, all other activities have ceased within the Church and this will continue to be the case until further notice. This means that there will be no Sunday School. Singing is not permitted at present, although there will be music. Services will also be shorter than usual. During each service there will be a children's address and work sheets available for children during the sermon.

With respect to the weekly financial giving, we would like to thank members for their continued generosity to the work of High Street. The table below gives a short report on our position up to the end of July:

	Jan- July 2020	Jan- July 2019	Decrease	% Decrease
Total FWO	35773.74	41891.19	-6117.45	-14.60
Total Repair	11883.50	12744.30	-860.80	-6.75
United Appeal	2464.50	3794.50	-1330.00	-35.05

Ongoing contributions can be made by cheque, church envelopes, standing order or bank transfer. Please contact Mr Ian Titterington for further information regarding standing orders and financial contributions (07767 705131, tttrngti@aol.com). Contributions for United Appeal can be sent to Mr Norman McCullough, 7 Milltown Road, Antrim BT41 4NW (028 9442 9999).

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact Colin on 9446 8339, 07740868681, cmcdowell@presbyterianireland.org

We hope this letter has given you some insight into the current situation. We look forward to the time when all the restrictions are lifted, but in the meantime, we hope to see as many of you as possible on September 6th when we gather to worship our Saviour God.

Thank you and God bless,
High Street Kirk Session.