

The Church of Scotland
Aberdeen: St Stephen's Parish Church

Powis Place Aberdeen AB25 3TS
Minister: Rev Maggie Whyte BD

Manse: 6 Belvidere Street Aberdeen AB25 2QS. Telephone 01224 635694/07719664293

Email: Maggie.Whyte@churchofscotland.org.uk

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I can now share with you the news

St Stephen's Church building will re-open for Sunday Worship on Sunday 3rd October at 11am.

Anyone who wishes to attend worship in the Sanctuary of the church is welcome to do so. There is **no need to book** in advance, however you will be asked to **register either by QR Code or by leaving contact details** with the Door Duty Team on arrival for Track and Trace. Masks must be worn to cover your mouth and nose **at all times** in the church building (unless you have a medical exemption). Please use **hand sanitiser** available at the entrance. We continue to encourage everyone to maintain **at least 1 metre Social Distancing**. Some pews are still blocked off to help with distancing – please respect this. We must ask that people remain in their seats and **do not move around unnecessarily** before or after the Service. For the time being, any social interaction would be **best done once outside the church**.

The Kirk Session are **aware that not everyone will feel able to attend church** and so they have taken the decision to **continue to make our Sunday Worship available on You Tube**. We are moving away from recording our Services in advance and instead they will be shown “live” on our You Tube channel – St Stephen's, Church of Scotland Aberdeen - at **11am on Sundays** (and also available to view later).

In order to **Livestream** our worship, we have had 2 small cameras installed in the church. They are located at the front of the Sanctuary and they will be focussed on the Chancel area only. This will mean that **only those who are involved in leading the Service (Minister, Organist and Reader) will appear on the screen**. The congregation will not be visible to those who are watching online. There will be notices in the church to remind you that the Services are being Livestreamed.

If you are accompanied by children, you will be asked to sign a consent form and you will be reminded of where the cameras operate. Children who wish to participate in an “all-age talk” during the service may, with signed parental consent, come into the chancel area – but please, be aware that they may then appear on the Livestream. **Parents/Guardians must decide** whether or not they are comfortable for their child/ren to be seen online. Remember, no-one who remains in the pews will be filmed.

Please enter by the Front Door of the church. The Hall Door will be for **disabled access only** in the meantime. Many of the congregation now make their **Freewill Offering** via Standing Order at their bank. We know this does not suit everyone. If you still **use your WFO envelope**, please leave this in one of the **baskets available in the vestibule** when you arrive. A member of the Door Duty Team will bring the Offering to the Communion Table during the first hymn.

The Church of Scotland
Aberdeen: St Stephen's Parish Church

Powis Place Aberdeen AB25 3TS
Minister: Rev Maggie Whyte BD

Manse: 6 Belvidere Street Aberdeen AB25 2QS. Telephone 01224 635694/07719664293
Email: Maggie.Whyte@churchofscotland.org.uk

To reduce the chances of cross-contamination we will continue to restrict the use of **hymn books**. **The hymns will appear on the screen as usual. Please only use a book if you cannot see the screens** – you may wish to sit nearer the front than usual. If you really do require a hymn book, we would encourage you to **collect one on your first visit to church and then take it home with you** after each Sunday Service. Bibles will not be available meantime, but you may bring your own and take it home with you. There will be no printed Order of Service for the time being.

During the month of October there will be **no teas and coffees after the Service**. We will review this before the beginning of November. **A return to this time of Fellowship will be dependent on what is happening re COVID 19** as winter approaches, the wishes of the congregation, and the **availability of folks to help in the kitchen. Do let us know your thoughts on this.**

It has been a very long time since we have been able to celebrate The Lord's Supper in the Sanctuary. **A Service of Holy Communion for everyone, at home and in the Sanctuary, will be held during the month of November.** Listen out for an announcement of the date.

Please be assured that we will do everything in our power to keep the church environment clean & safe. We ask that you do likewise by following the guidelines. Please do not come to church if you are unwell – err on the side of caution. Remember – **IT IS OUR CHURCH FAMILY THAT WE ARE PROTECTING!!!**

WHEREVER YOU WORSHIP – AT HOME OR IN CHURCH – LET'S WORSHIP TOGETHER – ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE!!

Yours in His Service,

Maggie

Rev Maggie Whyte