

Dear Friends,

September 2020

Greetings from the PNK manse!

Well, after months of lockdown and being unable to meet we are finally able to gather for worship. We are planning to do this on Sunday 27th September for a Harvest celebration, and plan to continue meeting every Sunday unless we are told otherwise. **On behalf of the Kirk Session I would like to extend to you an invitation to join us at 11am on Sunday 27th – barring any changes in restrictions on gathering for worship of course!**

There will be some differences though, as some restrictions still apply. Notably these are:

- Places are limited due to social distancing rules
- The wearing of a face covering is mandatory
- There will be no singing, as currently that is banned

For everyone's protection and safety, it is required that we wear face coverings and we have implemented a "Trace and Protect" process for everyone who enters.

Unfortunately the comfortable seats have had to be replaced with solid plastic seating for ease of cleaning - these are placed at appropriately socially distanced positions. However, as these seats are less comfortable, and wearing a face covering is also uncomfortable after a while, the length of the service will be reduced. Appropriate signage has been placed in the church, together with hand sanitation stations, and we have implemented a one-way system for entrance and exit. Only the toilet in the Welcome area and the disabled toilet in the Back hall will be available. Please follow the one way system before and after use.

It would also be of immense help if you bring as little as possible with you to church, for example – could you leave your handbag at home? Please study the accompanying guidance sheet, or look on the church website, for more information.

I realise this all seems rather complex and unfriendly but we have a legal and moral obligation to do these things, so please be kind to our stewards should they give you instructions. They have volunteered to help for the well-being of all who attend.

If you have been shielding, if you are of advanced years or have certain health issues, please remember that being with other people in an enclosed space such as a church building carries risks, even if the building is as safe as we can make it. Do take this into account as you decide whether to come along or not. We will continue to live stream the service. Indeed, it is envisaged that we will continue to live stream as a matter of course.

As I mentioned above the seating is now socially distanced, which limits the numbers. To be fair to folks, we have implemented a **Telephone Booking System**. If we are full up one week, you will be

offered a place for the following week. While you can still turn up at the door, priority will be given to those who have booked.

The booking system operates on a first come, first served basis. For any particular Sunday, bookings will be open from 1pm on the previous Sunday until 5pm on the Thursday, and you can book by calling or texting our dedicated number **07736 434 817**. The Booking System will open on Sunday 20th September at 1pm. Please indicate your name, contact phone number and the number you would like to book from your household— both adults and children. If you hear nothing back, please assume that you have a place booked as **we will only contact you if a place is not available**. If we contact you to advise that a place is not available, we will offer you a place for the following Sunday. Information about your attendance will be held for a period of 21 days and then destroyed.

Finally, we are still strongly discouraged from singing. There will, however, be songs previously recorded by our worship team and used in the on-line services. While not singing may be difficult, it does offer the opportunity to express worship in different ways, such as “whisper singing”, dancing on the spot, or raising your hands. You could also stand or sit while contemplating the words of the song. I would encourage you to experiment during this time.

I trust all this is helpful. It will be lovely to get back to worship together with something close to normal.

Should you wish to bring a Harvest offering, please make it something for the Foodstore, and deposit it on the table in the Welcome Area as you enter the church.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,
Graham.