



St Margaret's Church
Woodside Road
Glenrothes
KY7 5HD

Manse Tel. No: 752241

28th August 2020

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you all well and, as the roads get busier and schools and workplaces reopen, the challenge will be not to forget about what we have discovered during the lockdown. For me, it is the beauty and wonder of nature and a heightened appreciation of family and friends.

It has been joyful to gather for Sunday worship on Zoom since Palm Sunday, 2nd April, and due to investment in the upgraded Zoom license, everyone has been able to join the service. Those with WIFI and devices and also those with landlines have been able to telephone in to hear the service.

Ruth Livingstone our Congregational Support Worker is moving on to take up a new position as the manager of Levenmouth Foodbank. Ruth is a member of St Margaret's, but she has been with us in her official role since November 2016. We will miss her, but we wish her every success in her new role. Ruth's final day with us will be 21st September.

Since the Scottish Government announcement mid-July that churches could reopen for worship, weddings and funerals, a small group appointed by the kirk session has been working hard to put in place all the required health and safety measures which will allow us to reopen. I am happy to tell you that all of the measures we have taken have been sufficient to allow Presbytery to approve the reopening of our sanctuary for worship, weddings and funerals.

The church sanctuary will be reopening for worship on Sunday 6th September at 10am. The service will be filmed live and those who are watching from home will be able to join with those in church for worship. The plan is to use Zoom and the contact details are below for joining Sunday worship. They will remain unchanged.

Please note that we have a YouTube channel at the following link and there you will find reflections that have been recorded during the last few months.
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UcklCF0L1Y6kjAdpq4ePGsRg>

If you are unable to join at 10am, the service will be uploaded to the website and YouTube channel for you to watch later. Audio recordings of all the Sunday services since April are available on the church website under "Sunday Service recordings".

With regard to attending the worship service in person, I would advise you that the number of people the sanctuary can hold has been severely restricted due to social distancing rules for 2m spacing. There is capacity for 28 individuals/couples/families at one time and booking for the service will be necessary to allow us to safely manage the space.

To book a place at a Sunday service, please telephone our Session Clerk, Sheila Filsell (775138) on either Thursday evenings 6-7pm or Saturday morning between 9-10am.

Please be aware that we will need to follow the Scottish Government's rules for hand cleaning, distancing and keeping a record of telephone numbers for 3 weeks of those at the service for Test and Protect. The reality is that for those who are able to come back to church for worship on a particular Sunday, the church will look different as there will be no hymn book, Bibles or singing. Words and images will be projected on to the screens. We will have both live music and prerecorded music. It is mandatory for everyone in the church to wear a face covering unless there are any medical reasons for not doing so. Please know that we will be taking all precautions to keep everyone safe.

If you are unsure whether it is safe for you to come back to the church at this time, due to age or health factors, there is a tool provided by the Church of Scotland which will help you assess your potential risk. I have enclosed/attached it for your information. It is our hope that everyone who wants to should be able to join in worship whether face to face or online or by telephone.

On the question of transport to church, the Scottish guidance is currently that you should only travel with members of your own, or extended, household.

In this new way of living, we are all missing the way things were in a busy church at the heart of the community. The most important thing for now is to keep everyone safe, to keep in touch and to keep faith alive through worship, prayer and fellowship, whether online or in person.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to telephone me on 752241.

Yours in Christ,

Eileen

Topic: Sunday Worship

Time: 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87172043700?pwd=QXd5c0E3YVV6S3Yrb0lCWlHQ0d3JrZz09>

Meeting ID: 871 7204 3700

Passcode: 090012

One tap mobile

+441314601196,,87172043700#,,,,,0#,,090012# United Kingdom

+442030512874,,87172043700#,,,,,0#,,090012# United Kingdom

Dial by your location

0131 460 1196