



METHLICK PARISH CHURCH

(Methlick Parish Church of Scotland SC016542)

Minister: Rev. Dr. Will Stalder

Date: 30 August 2020

LETTER TO METHLICK PARISH CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Reopening of Methlick Parish Church

Dear Methlick Parish Church,

The rumours are true! Methlick Parish Church is re-opening again for worship starting **Sunday 6 September 2020, 10:30am!** It's an exciting time! For the first time in nearly six months we will be able to worship together in person. However, we still need to remain vigilant! The Coronavirus has not gone away. Towards that end, there will be some restrictions in place in order to minimise the risk of infection.

They are as follows:

Limited capacity. Based on social distancing rules, each service will have a maximum attendance of 30 people (based on individual attendees). We are not allowed to use our balcony for the time being. Because of limited capacity, we kindly ask individuals to consider booking their attendance every other week or every three weeks. We will keep you updated on any changes in government policy and/or demand for services.

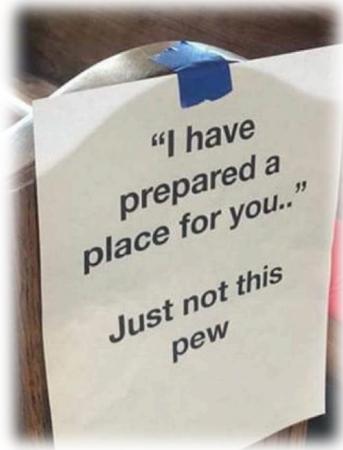
I. **Hygiene.**

Before arrival, We ask that you consider the risks posed to your health by attending worship. We are doing everything to keep the church Covid-19 free, but we can't guarantee that attending church will be risk free. Towards that end, we are including an "Assessment Tool for individual and group health risks to help make that decision.

Upon arrival, you will be asked to do five things: **one**, register your arrival (we kindly ask that you pre-book if possible – see below for more information); **two**, use the hand sanitising gel provided upon entry *and* departure; **three**, wear a face covering at all times within the church unless you have a condition that prevents you doing so; **four**, have your temperature taken by a non-invasive thermometer; and **five**, maintain 2m social distance at all times.

Toilets are available, but should be avoided except emergencies (Services will be kept as short as possible).

2. **One-way traffic.** There will be a one-way in system in operation. Those arriving, must enter through the main door, remain in their seats for the duration of the service and then leave through the Laird's door. At the conclusion of worship, the minister will ask the congregation to leave via the Laird's door, pew by pew to prevent compromising the social distancing criteria.



3. **Church Service.** According to the most recent guidelines, there are a number of restrictions and changes to the normal way we do Church. There will be no singing. Bible and hymnbooks will not be provided. Individuals will be sat in pews in accordance with social distancing rules. Nevertheless, it will still be great to be together! We will worship. There will be fellowship and a sense of God's presence. As Jesus promised, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them" (Matthew 18:20).

4. **Pre-booking.** Due to current restrictions and limitations on attendance, as stipulated above, we ask that pre-book your attendance. There are two main reasons for this:

- **Avoidance of overcrowding.** We want to be as hospitable as possible and would hate to have to bar someone from entering the church on the spot.
- **Track & trace.** In case of someone being diagnosed with Covid-19, we can help to trace anyone who might have been in close contact with the person in question. This is why we ask for your contact details. Those details will be kept confidential, safe and secure for 21 days as required by current regulations before being destroyed.
- **Pre-booking.** You can book your attendance by calling the Manse or e-mailing the minister by the Saturday before Sunday worship. You can call Will at 01651 806 264 or E-mail him at wstalder@churchofscotland.org.uk. We ask that you kindly book/attend every other week in the first instance to allow everybody to attend.

5. **Health and safety.** Should you have symptoms of Covid-19 (new persistent cough, fever, loss of smell and taste), or have been issued a shielding letter or being asked to self-isolate, please do not attend Church.

We know that this is a lot to ask of everybody. We appreciate your understanding, however. We want to make sure everybody is kept safe in this uncertain time. All that to say, we look forward to seeing you and worshipping with you if and when you can. We will continue to provide an online reflection for sometime to come in order to cater to as many people as possible. Until we see you again, may the Lord bless you and keep you. Stay safe. Stay well. Stay with God. He stays with you!

Your minister,
Will Stalder (Methlick Parish Church)