



BRIDGETON ST. FRANCIS-IN-THE-EAST CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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Dear Friends,

What a strange time this is. Who would have thought at the bells last Hogmanay that three months later all church buildings in Scotland would be closed for worship and that we would be worshipping on zoom? And many of us have been asking when we will be having services in our building again. Well, as long as 2 metre distancing is the law we cannot fit everyone into our sanctuary, so our 11am service on Sundays will continue on zoom, but starting from Monday 21st September we will be holding a service in our church every Monday at 11am. However, as you will see from this newsletter, it will be very different and shorter than our Sunday services. So please read the rest of this newsletter to find out more.

Also as you may know, I am no longer retiring on 14th September but have put back my retirement until after we have held memorial services in our church for Elsie Carswell, Grace Donald and Margaret Smith who all died during lockdown. So if I can be of any help to you or someone you know, even if it's just a chat or a prayer, please phone me at 0141 587 8667 or email me at HHudson@churchofscotland.org.uk or contact me on Facebook.

Yours in His love, *Howard*

FOOD BANK

Our Food Bank is open every Thursday, 10.45-12.45. If you need help in getting a voucher, please phone Linda at 07951749363.

CONGREGATIONAL BOARD

All on the Congregational Board are reminded that our next meeting will be on Thursday, 24th September at 7pm on zoom.

WELCOME TEAM ROTA

| Monday 21st September | Monday 28th September |
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| May Livingstone Sandra McKenna Sandra Hudson Michelle McLeod Duncan McGhie Kimberly Scott Barbara Jennings | So far ... Sandra McKenna Michelle McLeod Duncan McGhie Rita McKenna Kimberly Scott |

Those in the welcome team are asked to be at the church from 10.15am on Mondays.

CLEANING TEAM ROTA

| Thursday 24th September 1.30pm | Thursday 1st October 1.30pm |
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| May Livingstone Sandra McKenna Betty Clark Philomena Pullan Manish & Kalpana Gaikwad Sharon Miller | so far... May Livingstone Sandra McKenna Philomena Pullan Betty Clark Sharon Miller |

If anyone else is able to help with the Welcome or Cleaning Teams please let Howard know or contact Alan at bridgetonstfrancis@gmail.com or on 07710532711

IF YOU ARE COMING TO OUR MONDAY SERVICE

- Please come to the side door of the church between 10.45 and 11am.
- Please keep a 2 metre distance from anyone who doesn't live with you at all times, including on entering and exiting the church.
- Please wear a face mask at all times while in the building unless you have a medical exemption
- On entering the building, please use the hand sanitiser on the table outside the Billiard Room
- Please then give your name and telephone number for track and trace purposes to the person at the foot of the back stairs where there will also be a box in which you can put an offering, if you wish.
- Unless you need to use the toilet, please then make your way up to the sanctuary either by the back stairs or the lift.
- You will then be guided where to sit which may not be where you usually sit.
- Once seated, please stay in your seat if at all possible till the end of the service.
- Any children must sit with their parent/guardian throughout the whole service. There will be no crèche or Young Frankies.
- If you start feeling unwell during the service, please let one of the welcome team know.

What will worship be like? Different.... but special!

- We will have music, but there must be no singing, humming or shouting.
- There will be no bibles, hymnbooks, What's On Sheets or even cushions on the pews. (If you need a cushion, you'll have to bring your own and take it away with you. It can't be left in the church.)
- There will be no flowers.
- We will all be wearing facemasks apart from the bible reader when reading the bible and the minister when leading worship so that those who are hard of hearing can lip read as well as use the audio loop.
- To help control the risk of Covid-19 transmission, the windows in the church will be open to let in fresh air so please wear warm clothing.
- There will be no jugs or cups of water so please bring your own bottle of water if you need to.
- We will not be shaking hands, but we can wave to each other.

- The offering will not be taken during the service.
- There will be no responses.

BUT we will be able to be together to worship God and pray and hear God's word.

Once the service is over

- Please continue to keep 2 metres apart from anyone who doesn't live with you.
- Please make your way down the front stairs or by the lift and leave through the front doors after using the hand sanitiser in the vestibule.
- There will be no tea and coffee after the service.

TOILET

To reduce the cleaning and disinfecting that needs to be done after each service, please use only the disabled toilet. After using the toilet, please close the lid before flushing and please wash your hands thoroughly with the liquid soap and dry your hands with the paper towels provided, putting the used towels in the plastic bin, not down the toilet. Then please wipe all surfaces that you have used with the anti-bacterial wipes provided. Thank you.

LIFT

To maintain 2 metre social distancing and help control the risk of Covid-19 transmission, only one person should use the lift at a time. There will be someone at the bottom and top of the lift to open the door for you and operate the lift, so please do not touch any of the surfaces of the lift.

ZOOM

You are most welcome to join us for our Sunday services at 11am on zoom either online or using your normal phone. To find out more about this, please email or phone Howard.

THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. The reason why we have issued it is to let you know how different coming to a church service will be at this time and what needs to be done to obey government regulations and to reduce the risk of anyone catching the coronavirus. So if you have a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of taste or smell, or if you live with someone who has these symptoms, for your own good and the good of others please stay at home and book a coronavirus test and feel free to let Howard know. Also, if you were given medical advice to shield or are instructed to get a flu jab each year on medical grounds, you should carefully consider whether it is safe for you to attend church or not. We know that some people will not feel ready yet to return to worship in a church with other people. If that's you, please don't feel guilty about that but feel free to worship with us on a Sunday on zoom. If you are unable to attend church at this time, we are still here for you and if you need support please let Howard know.

Thanks to Barbara for putting this newsletter together and Alan for photocopying it.

A letter from our church treasurer

Dear Friends,

I have just read the article I wrote for the March magazine telling you about the state of the Church's finances at that time. Little did I think that, a few weeks later, we would be entering lockdown. Even more incredible is the fact that five months on Covid is still dominating all our lives.

Inevitably the current situation has had an impact on our finances. With no regular Sunday offerings and no hall rental income the outlook is concerning depending how long it will be till we are back to some form of normality.

In true Bridgeton spirit, however, members have been rallying to support the Church. Several members have for the first time taken out a bank standing order so that their Planned Giving can be paid directly into the Church's bank account. This option is still very much open to any of you who might be willing to consider this way of helping out with the finances. If I can help you make any arrangements, please contact me at any time (632 4502).

At the outset, we suggested that members should consider setting aside each week in their envelopes their normal Planned Giving contribution. I know that many of you have done this. As the amounts involved build up, members have voiced some concern about having too much cash in their homes. I have offered to visit members to collect and to bank their contributions. Several members have taken up this offer. Let me stress that this offer remains available at any time. To make the arrangements please phone me and I will be delighted to help out.

You will know that it is planned to start services in the Church from Monday 21 September. It would be wonderful if members planning to attend these services could bring with them any offerings that they have – I will be present at the service to receive your contributions.

In closing, I would like to reassure members that we have sufficient money in the bank to meet all our needs at the present time. The Congregational Board is watching our finances carefully and acting as always in the best interests of our Church.

If I can help in any way, please feel free to contact me at any time. In the meantime I hope you keep safe.

With kind regards

Duncan C McGhie
(Treasurer)