

Dear Friends

I hope that you are in good health in these uncertain times.

I am delighted to share news that we have been given permission to open St Margaret's for communal worship. With the assistance of our partners in Rosyth Methodist Church we have fulfilled the necessary requirements set out by the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Methodist Council for opening under Phase III guidelines.

Initially, only one service will be held each Sunday. Rosyth Methodist Church will host their first service on Sunday 27th September at 11am. St Margaret's will host our Eucharist on Sunday 4th October at 9.30am. This pattern of alternate weeks will continue throughout October and November.

As you will be aware certain changes as to how we worship have had to be made to comply with the required guidelines from both the Scottish Government and the General Synod Office of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Some of the major changes are as follows:

Please enter and exit the building by the door in the car park and follow the one-way system as directed.

Face coverings must be worn in church and should only be removed when receiving communion.

Guidance as to the use of hand sanitisers must be observed.

To comply with 'Track and Trace' requirements, personal details will be requested at all services.

Physical distancing within the church and throughout the service must be maintained. Every effort has been made to follow the 2 metre guide. To assist with this detailed seating has been designated for individuals, though family groups can sit together. A sidesperson will guide you as to where you should sit.

Although music will be played there can be no singing.

The Peace cannot be shared.

Communion will be in one kind only, namely the bread.

At the end of the service you will be guided when to leave in order that physical distancing can be maintained.

Each service will last approximately 35 mins.

It would be helpful if you could notify Sandra or myself if you intend to come to church so that we are able to accommodate as many of our congregation as we are able.

I understand that such requirements all sound very regimented and a far cry from how we are used to worshipping. However, such measures are an attempt to maintain the safety and well being of all who come to church. Acknowledging that when we meet in church it will be in unusual circumstances, every effort will be made to make it as prayerful and enjoyable an experience as we can.

These past few months have been difficult and unsettling for us all. This has perhaps challenged feelings of self-confidence and some of our congregation may feel unable to attend church. I understand such anxieties and would stress that no one should feel under any pressure to come back to church until such time that they feel confident to do so. Whether we meet in church or continue to worship at home we are one community and family, holding each other and the needs of the world in prayer.

I look forward to the opportunity of sharing in worship with you whenever and wherever that may be. As always be assured of my prayers and best wishes.

Kenny.