

Guidance For Attending Worship In Burnside



Thank you for planning to attend a Service of Worship at Burnside Presbyterian Church. It has been a long time since we were last able to meet together and a number of changes have been implemented. Although these changes may restrict what we do together on a Sunday, we ask you to observe them for your safety and the safety of others.

Burnside At Home and **Phone Burnside** will continue at the moment, because we recognise that not everyone is ready to attend a Service in the Church building at this time. Just because Burnside is reopening please do not feel pressured to attend immediately. Take your time and join us when you are ready.

Glorifying God

Please do remember that when we come together the aim is to glorify God and to do this safely. Please prepare spiritually for worship as well as following all the extra physical guidance.

What follows is the result of meticulous planning and therefore contains a lot of detail which may seem complicated when written down but we hope will make sense when you see it in operation.

Attending Church

If you are displaying any of the symptoms of COVID-19, or have been in close contact with anyone displaying such symptoms, or if you feel unwell, please do not attend a Service of Worship in the Church building.

What To Expect

Seating capacity has been reduced from 300 to about 40, therefore there will not be room for a full congregation and when the building has reached capacity we cannot allow anyone else to enter. Obviously after the first week we will have a better idea as to how many people are wanting to attend and we will adjust our plans accordingly. Please understand that if we have to refuse entry it is for your safety and to comply with regulations.

Although the **Church is the people and not the building**, throughout this guide Burnside and the Church will both be used to refer to the physical building.

Information to help you prepare for returning to Burnside.

Please maintain **2 metre distance** at all times. This includes from the stewards who will be guiding you into and out of the building. Please follow them at a safe distance.

Hand Sanitiser is available as you enter the building, please use it, even if you have already washed your hands before leaving home.

Please wear a **face covering** while inside Burnside.

Do not touch surfaces, doors, handles, tops of pews etc. Doors will be open when you approach them or will be opened by stewards. With doors being open and increased ventilation in the Church you may want to dress appropriately for the expected lower temperatures.

Entry and exit to the building is strictly one way and only the centre aisle will be used. Please enter by the front door and wait in line at the floor markings until the next mark is free. If it is raining, entry will be via the rear door so that socially distant queueing can take place through the Main Hall.

Pews can accommodate three individuals (one at each end and one in the middle) This capacity will change slightly if couples or families are sitting together. Seating will be allocated starting at the front of the Church and moving to the rear. You will be asked to sit in a specific place in a specific pew with no choice available about which pew to sit in. There will be two empty pews between each occupied pew. Please enter the building with all the people that you intend to sit with, as it will not be possible to “squeeze” past someone already in a pew. If you have to leave please indicate to anyone else in the pew so that they can get up to allow you room to exit safely. Once seated please do not change seats

A record will be kept of where people sit so that in the, hopefully unlikely, event of someone testing positive for Covid-19 then others in the vicinity can be notified. By entering the building you are consenting to your data being used for this purpose.

Services will be shorter to minimise the time that people are sitting together, and time singing will be reduced and will consist of quieter pieces.

Children are asked to sit with parents, as the service will be shorter. There will be no activities for children in the hall.

Leaving the building will be in reverse i.e. occupants of rear pew first. Please do not stop to chat in the vestibule as this will slow down movement. Any conversations should take place outside at a safe distance.

Only the disabled access **toilet** will be available for emergency use. This is to restrict numbers in what is a very confined space. **Coats** should not be hung in the cloakroom, instead they should be kept with you.

Offering will be via baskets at the door as you leave. We appreciate your generosity during these difficult times and would ask you to consider setting up a Standing Order to minimise the handling of cash.

Hymn books and Bibles will not be available. Please use words on screens or bring your own.

Announcements will be made verbally and online.

These are very unusual times that we are living in and we hope that these measures will enable all of us to meet safely as a Church. Please be patient as we implement these procedures.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation and we look forward to seeing you in Burnside very soon.

We are planning to reopen the Church building at 11:00am on Sunday 6th September 2020. Initially there will only be morning Services.