

Eaglesham Parish Church

Opening church buildings for communal worship

Information concerning re-opening the church, 30th August 2020

The Scottish Government is now allowing churches to open for communal worship, and Eaglesham Parish Church Kirk Session, after carefully considering this, has agreed to open the church for this purpose on Sundays at 11.00am, commencing **30th August**, depending on us meeting all the necessary requirements.

The Church of Scotland has devised extensive guidance which we, as a church, will be following.

Worship initially - and possibly for a considerable time - will not be like our usual worship, because of our need to follow the guidelines which are there to keep us all safe. However, we must remember that we will be continuing to worship God as members of his church.

What will it look like to come to church?

- The Duty Team will welcome you as usual, but at a 2 metre distance with no physical contact
- Please maintain 2M distance outside the church while you are waiting
- Feel free to bring an offering if this is your usual custom
- We are not allowed at present to use the gallery, and so our occupancy for worshippers is limited because of physical distancing regulations - we estimate we can accommodate approximately **30** people downstairs
- Because of this limitation we will be operating a Booking System so as not to have to turn people away. Using a booking system will also ensure we can use our limited capacity to its full extent
- Please telephone the church mobile 07787368549 to book a place. Alternatively email office@eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk.
- When you arrive at church, a member of the Duty Team will take your name. This is to comply with Government and Church Guidelines in the unlikely case that NHS Scotland needs to contact you as part of the Test and Protect Scheme
- Please bring a face covering with you for use
- You will be asked to use the sanitisers provided, and to have a look at the notices in place
- The Duty Team will advise you on where would be best for you to sit. Household Groups will be accommodated in the side and back pews (with the exception of the area reserved for people with disabilities). Those attending church as individuals will be directed to seats in the centre pews.
- There will be a clearly marked one way system to help ensure physical distancing

What will the service be like?

- Our service will continue, as always, to be about praising and worshipping God, and I'm sure if you come to church you will feel His presence and the comfort that worship brings

- Families with children are welcome, but please note that unfortunately we will not be able to provide any activities for children who will be required to sit with their parents
- We are not as yet allowed to praise God in singing, or have access to hymn books, Orders of Service, or Pew Bibles
- Please bring your own Bible if you wish
- We plan to have some recorded contemplative music before and after the Service
- Our Locum Minister will, as always, offer Bible readings, reflections and prayers
- Unfortunately, our Minister will not be able to shake hands at the door as usual after the service
- When you leave the church, please continue to be mindful of the 2 metre physical distancing requirements both inside and outside the church building

Wendy Armstrong
H&S Admin
9.8.2020