

Sunday Worship at Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk

We are pleased to confirm that Presbytery has approved our plans to re-open Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk for worship.

To comply with Scottish Government regulations and Church of Scotland guidance, we will have to adopt the following procedures:

- All people attending our service must observe a minimum of 2 metres social distancing at all times when in church and on their way in and out of the building. Worshippers will be guided to seats (which have been laid out to maintain social distancing) and should stay in those seats throughout the service. Provision will be made for those from the same household to sit together.
- All worshippers must wear face coverings (unless they have an exemption from doing so) and hand sanitiser will be provided.
- There will be no singing.
- Offerings can be made either on entry or on leaving the church (but will not be uplifted during the service).
- Contact details of all worshippers will be collected and stored for 28 days after the service in accordance with our privacy policy, a copy of which will be on display in church.
- There will be no printed intimations and hymn books and bibles have been removed from the church.
- Toilets will be open, but their use will be restricted to one person at a time.
- Tea and coffee will not be available after the service.
- Please be aware that our services will be recorded and recordings of that morning's service will be made available later on the website for those who are unable to attend our services including those for whom attendance at this stage is probably not appropriate due to underlying health conditions.

As numbers attending church services have been limited by the Scottish Government and are also dependant on the layout of the church, we will operate a booking system each week. **Bookings can be made by phone or email during church office hours (1000-1300) on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the week prior to the service. To make a booking for that week's service at either Abbey or Dirleton, please either phone during these hours (01620 892800) or email your request to abbeychurch@abbeychurch.co.uk giving details of the names of the people from your household who wish to attend and one contact telephone number. Please do not leave phone messages and any emails received before Tuesday at 10.00am cannot be accepted. Bookings will only be taken for that week's service and the process for the following Sunday will commence on the Tuesday of that week.**

If after booking, you feel unwell on the Sunday, we would respectfully request that you do not attend that service.

We appreciate that the above restrictions will mean that "worship" might seem somewhat strange for as long as the current restrictions are in place. However, we look forward to this opportunity of meeting together for worship for the first time in over 4 months.

Worship in church will be a different experience from what we're used to. However, the most important thing is that we can meet together, pray and hear God's word. Our hope is that the special measures we have to take will not distract from why we're there. Down the centuries, people have met to worship in some very strange surroundings, from catacombs and caves to hill tops! And in all of these, the mission of Christ's church has continued. Let them end with a quote I saw recently (author unknown!):
'Churches should quit greetin' about no meetin', and start meetin' folks where they are greetin'