

Church

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**Minister**

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Wednesday 17th March 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Kirk Session met last night to discuss the proposed changes to when places of worship might open, announced by the First Minister last week. We discussed a range of options for how we might worship in the coming weeks, alongside logistical considerations, remaining restrictions, and the current progress of virus-suppression and vaccination rates. The Session felt that, given how long we have been closed, we would rather err on the side of caution and help keep everyone safe, than take advantage of a surprise-opportunity. As such, the decision has been made that we will not return to in-person worship in our building before 10th May. At that point, depending on Government and church advice, numbers and feedback from you all, we will either return to the pattern we established in the latter part of 2020, or to a Sunday morning with a strict (legal) limit on numbers. Please note that, even when we do return, it is highly likely that many restrictions will remain in place, e.g. 2m distancing; wearing of face coverings; no singing, etc.

An outline of services between now and then are listed overleaf. In summary, however, the rest of March will be as per our current pattern. Services for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday will be streamed live via YouTube (also available via website, and at any time thereafter). Then, on Easter Sunday, we would like to 'gather' for worship using Zoom at 11am. We will use this format of 'gathering' for 'live' worship via Zoom for the remainder of April, which will allow us to see each other's faces and share tea/coffee/fellowship afterwards. For those not online, Zoom can be accessed via telephone, and we will continue to offer DVDs, CDs, etc, of this service to anyone who wants it.

Most importantly as we head towards May, we would like to hear from you. Please contact your elder and tell them how you have been accessing worship for this past year, what you have appreciated and what you have missed. This will help inform our decision-making for May and, indeed, for our patterns of worship going forward into the new world post-COVID-19. This has been such a difficult time for everyone, but we hope that we can learn new things about what it is to be The Church, the Body of Christ, in Monifieth for 2021 and beyond.

We hold you all in prayer and ask God's blessing upon you and your loved ones,

Fee.

Forthcoming Services

21 st March	5 th Sunday in Lent	Pre-recorded via YouTube, website, Buzzsprout, DVD, etc
28 th March	Palm Sunday	Pre-recorded via YouTube, website, Buzzsprout, DVD, etc
1 st April	Maundy Thursday	Live stream via YouTube at 8pm*
2 nd April	Good Friday	Live stream via YouTube at 2pm*
3 rd April	Holy Saturday	Live stream via YouTube at 8pm*
4 th April	Easter Sunday	Live at 11am via Zoom*
11 th April	2 nd Sunday in Easter	Live at 11am via Zoom*
18 th April	3 rd Sunday in Easter	Live at 11am via Zoom*
25 th April	4 th Sunday in Easter	Live at 11am via Zoom*

*The service will be recorded and available via YouTube, website, Buzzsprout, DVD, etc, thereafter.

Details for Holy Week: <https://www.mpcos.org.uk/lent/holy-week/>

Information about Easter Egg Quiz Trail (2nd-11th April): <https://www.mpcos.org.uk/lent/eggs/>

Regular updates on Facebook page (public access): <https://www.facebook.com/MonifiethParish>

Zoom Details for Sunday Services

We are unable to share Zoom details publicly for our Sunday services BUT you are still most welcome to join us. To get the details of how to join us, please either complete the online form at <https://www.mpcos.org.uk/worship/zoom/> or call the manse on 01382 699183. Thank you.

