



CONNECT

CHURCH UPDATE

CHRYSTON 
PARISH CHURCH

Difficult Times



It's been an incredibly difficult number of months for us as a community and church family. The present circumstances have affected us all in a myriad of ways. Life has changed and a number of months ago we would not have expected that we would still be living with the present restrictions on life and worship. As a church family part of our spiritual DNA is that we are saved into a family. We are not meant to be alone which is interesting the first thing that God said was not good. Although we have been grateful for the technology to allow us to share in worship the inability to be together is still keenly felt. With changing regulations we hope we can make steps and that can allow us to reconnect in person.

Taking the First Step

On Sunday 13th of September the church building will be reopened for gathered worship. This will be the first step in a phased return. Our aim is to give you the opportunity if you wish and are safe to do so to gather with others on a Sunday morning at 10.30am. We will in the coming weeks explore new ways that we can worship in person and increase opportunity to connect with others, but these are our first steps to gathering together. We are very grateful to the team of folks who have worked hard to make this possible.

What To Expect When You Come to Church

Although we can now meet together in worship it will be within the constraints set out by the Scottish Government and the Church of Scotland.

You will find things different, but we hope you will feel safe and enjoy meeting with God together. Whatever happens, we are still 'a family called by God's grace and for His glory'.

Prepare Before You Go

- Please do not come if you or your family have any Covid symptoms.
- Under the present guidelines there can only be a maximum of 50 people in the building so you must prebook. Help on how to do this is found below.

- Like shops face coverings are mandatory in church buildings unless you have a medical exemption. We will have masks if you forget yours. You must keep your mask on during the service.
- Remember warm clothing as the doors will be open at times for ventilation.
- Bring your own Bible as the church Bibles cannot be used.
- If you are coming with children, please bring your own books or toys but these cannot be shared with others.
- Leave home in good time as we ask you arrive between 10.10 and 10.25am and in your seat by 10.25am.

When You Arrive

- Be ready to queue with 2m distancing to get into the building. We will follow a one-way system going in the main door. Only those unable to manage the steps should use the hall entrance.
- A steward will direct you to sanitise your hands with alcohol gel when you come in the door and offer you a mask if you have forgotten one.
- You will be marked as having been in the building under compulsory track and trace system. If you have not pre-booked, we will need to ask your name and contact details.
- A steward will guide you to an appropriate seat – it's unlikely to be in your usual spot, we will fill from the front to the back
- Please be willing to be flexible, seating will be laid out in advance at 2m apart – you will need to sit alone or in seats matching the size of your group/family – please don't move chairs.
- Creche and X-Groups will not be running for the time being, but we are working hard to make this possible
- The wheelchair accessible toilet will be accessible but for the time being other toilets will be out of access.



The Service

- The format of the service will be very similar to previous weeks. It will be different in the sense that the interaction has changed due to Covid restrictions.
- Congregational singing will not be possible due to the restrictions
- We will be led in prayer and listen to reading, music and teaching
- There will be no church bibles, notice sheets or other printed material.
- It may look and feel unlike any previous church service but our purpose in meeting together is exactly the same as before...to Glorify God.



When You Leave

- Be prepared to queue again keeping 2m apart as you move through the building. You will leave going through the one-way system and exit through the hall doors.
- Those at the back of the church will leave first.
- Offerings can be placed in one of the buckets.
- It might not be possible to hang around and chat too much, in order that physical distancing can be maintained as everyone leaves
- Please use the sanitiser again as you leave the building.

Booking Your Space

Due to the restriction's spaces are limited to a maximum of 50 people in the building. We are further restricted by the 2m physical distancing regulations and not being allowed to use the balcony. We would ask people then to 'prebook'. To prebook this you can use the following methods. As yet do not call the church office as its still closed under the present restrictions.

Email: chrystonchurch@icloud.com
Phone: 07933 142 328

Text: 07933 142 328
WhatsApp: 07933 142 328

When you contact us we will then get back in touch with you to confirm your 'booking'. If we have more people booking than we have space for we may have to allocate you a particular week to come. We will keep this in constant review and appreciate feedback. *(We will also keep some space for anyone who may be visiting for the first time and is unaware of the procedures in place.)*

Can You Help

Each week we will need four stewards to help with keeping everyone safe, comfortable and knowing where to go. Please contact Mark asap if you are willing to take a turn at doing this. You don't need to have been on any teams before in order to help out. Without the stewards we will not be able to have gathered worship.

Online Services

We will continue to livestream the services as not everyone will be yet safe or confident in gathering together. The services will be streamed live from the Vimeo Platform and recordings can be accessed later on Vimeo, YouTube and the Church Website. We have had to move from YouTube for livestreaming due to complications around Copyright. Vimeo is an ad free facility and should give us more stability. If you find it hard to connect with Vimeo contact Mark and he or a volunteer will visit you and get you organised. It's very secure and only takes a couple of minutes. We are keeping livestreaming as we believe although physical distant that we are gathered together as a family in worship. It also allows us to have Realtime interactions and connections.



The live stream can be accessed in any of the following ways.

- **Church website. Go to the church website, click live worship and then click the vimeo link. (Don't be afraid this is secure)**
www.chrystonparishchurch.co.uk
- **Go directly to <https://vimeo.com/chrystonparishchurch>**
- **Download the app to your phone, tablet device. Find Chryston Parish Church and follow.**



- Use the Vimeo app on smart TV's, apple TV, Firestick, Roku. You may have to join Vimeo and follow Chryston Parish Church.
- Please remember to share the livestream or videos with others. There is a button to click on the video or simply send people the vimeo link above.

The recorded telephone service will continue on 0141 280 6900 for the cost of a local call.

(Remember when searching for Chryston Parish Church to click person)

Please do not get stuck for help, just ask.

Keep In Contact

Please do keep in contact especially if there are any pastoral issues.

Please help us to keep in contact with you by keeping in touch through the church website, Facebook and What'sApp group. To get help connect with any of these just get in touch with Mark. It's very likely in the present circumstances that we may not hear of a need or make a mistake so please do keep in contact with us either for yourself or someone you know. We value you and miss you.

Marks Details

Tel: 07731 737 373

Email: mmalcolm@churchofscotland.org.uk

What's Next

In the coming weeks we will be doing some planning around small groups, additional opportunities for gathered worship and connecting together from the youngest to the oldest. We are looking for creative ideas. Watch this space and keep connected.

Weekly Updates

Next week we will be sending out weekly updates through the church website, WhatsApp and Facebook. If you would prefer these emailed, please contact Mark or if you don't have internet access and would prefer it delivered please contact Mark.

Zoom

Zoom coffee and chat will continue as will zoom prayer on a Wednesday. The links for these will be included in the weekly update. We can give training as to how to use zoom so that you can connect in this way.

Finance & Giving

We have been able to make some savings on the costs of running the church buildings since lockdown. Things like the cost of gas and electricity have gone down. However, nearly three-quarters of our costs are fixed, e.g., we still need to pay our contributions to the costs of the central church, insurance, rates, etc. We are estimating that the cost of running the church this year will be around £145,000.

Most of the income to pay for this comes from personal giving via WFO envelopes, the open plate and standing orders. Not surprisingly, income fell as soon as lockdown happened, attendance at Sunday worship stopped and those who normally give on Sundays were denied that opportunity. Currently, we are estimating that income will be £130,000. That estimate is much better than it was a month ago and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who has responded to the recent appeal for funds.

However, we are currently projecting a deficit on the normal running of the church of around £15,000. We are making strenuous efforts to reduce expenditure, where possible, and to seek alternative sources of funding. We have also had to invest around £4k in order to provide online worship and around £2k in order to get the building ready with the new regulations.

We know that people have already responded generously and that pressures on household budgets will have increased in recent months but we would ask you to consider prayerfully whether you are able to increase what you give to support the work of the church by one-off donation or by increasing your regular giving. The church website gives details of the main ways in which people can give, including by standing order, handing in WFO envelopes, online banking and PayPal. Further details are also available from our Treasurer, Isabell McEwan on 07519 758 723 or isamac_5@hotmail.com.



Offerings can be given at one of the gathered services, dropped off at the church letterbox or if it helps we can arrange a safe pickup.



Moving Forward

These are only the first steps to a return of gathering together. They are being made in order to keep you safe and to build confidence. We are exploring different ways to connect and how we can care for each other as family. We want you to feel safe and confident not anxious and disconnected. We miss each other and hope these steps are an encouragement to you. We value your prayers as we navigate these times together.

Keep in touch and keep connected as we look to God together.

May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest among you and remain with you until the day breaks and the shadows flee away.

