



Drumbo Church

PRESBYTERIAN

Re-opening of Church building

As announced last week the Stormont Executive gave 'the week beginning 29th June' as an indicative date when the restrictions of church gatherings would be lifted. This date was subsequently confirmed on Thursday past. The Executive has taken the approach that the responsibility of government is to set down the basic health and safety principles which must be followed, and it will then be the responsibility of all Churches to apply these required health and safety principles to their individual practices in all of the different types of services and related meetings that will be resuming.

Significantly, these principles include –

- Maintaining 2m social distancing in services of worship but no cap on maximum numbers attending.
- Anyone displaying symptoms must not attend services or meetings and other general public health guidance should be followed by all members.
- Shorter services to reduce risk
- Limited singing
- Register of those attending to facilitate contact tracing recommended
- Restrictions on indoor weddings has not yet been lifted and numbers attending funerals remains at 10.

Subsequently our Kirk Session met on Thursday, 25th June, evening to consider re-opening. While we miss gathered worship hugely and desire to meet again as a church family as soon as is practically possible, we are responsible for implementing the statutory health and safety principles and so will not be in a position to re-open until all necessary preparatory work is in place. In practice this means completing a 26 point "Resumption of congregational checklist," including all necessary physical preparations of buildings that are to be used, including cleaning, signage, closing off certain areas of seating etc.

We have agreed to form a working group to ensure compliance with the "Resumption of congregational activities checklist" with a view to making a decision on 30th July regarding a re-opening date.

We will continue with our online ministry and trust that the Lord will use it to encourage you in your journey of faith. We are looking at ways of meeting up informally, for example groups in gardens and Judith and I are planning to open up the Manse garden later in July for informal Sunday picnics.

Yours in Christ's service,

Adrian

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