

## **Prestwick St Nicholas Parish Church COVID-19 Rules**

### **Phase 3 of Scottish Government Route Map – Places of worship allowed to open for congregational services, including pre-arranged or scheduled acts of worship and communal prayer subject to physical distancing and hygiene safeguards**

1. **PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND CHURCH IF YOU OR ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS: DRY COUGH; FEVER; LOSS OF TASTE or SMELL; SHORTNESS OF BREATH or AS A RESULT OF CONTACT TRACING YOU ARE STAYING AT HOME TO MINIMISE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.**
2. **Please carefully consider the additional risk to your health and wellbeing if you are within the higher risk categories as defined by current government guidance.**
3. Congregational services will recommence on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Due to maximum number of **50** people being allowed in the building at any one time, there will be two diets of worship at 10.30am and 11.45am. Services will likely last for around 30/35 minutes. We have to allow time for cleaning between services.
4. To reduce the risk of disappointment of being turned away if maximum numbers have been reached, please attend the service designated to you by your Elder (done by elder's district number – 1-27, 10.30am and 28-56, 11.45am). Sadly we will be forced to deny access once the maximum of 50 people in the buildings has been reached.
5. Please follow government guidance on travel and please be aware that unfortunately, due to current restrictions, we are unable to provide our car pool service.
6. Only church will be open – no general access to toilets (unless for emergency use), kitchen, halls, etc. Corridor doors will be closed and not in use other than for emergency purposes and exit.
7. Please be prepared to queue outside. 2m distancing must be maintained and entry may take slightly longer than usual.
8. Entrance before services to be via church main door/vestibule only. One-way system in place down the church aisle prior to service. Reduced mobility access will continue to be available through the north transept door. (Anyone inside needing to return to main church door/vestibule prior to the service starting must do so externally).
9. Upon entry, you or a member of your household will be asked to provide their name and telephone number. This is a requirement under the Test and Protect government procedure. Your details will be held for 21 days and then destroyed in line with GDPR. A Privacy Notice will be displayed in the vestibule should you wish to refer to it.
10. Social distance floor markings are installed in the church – please remain 2m apart.
11. Green 'please sit here' signage placed in pews – showing limitations of seating in pews and maintenance of 2m social distance.  
**PLEASE DO NOT MOVE THESE SIGNS OR TRY TO SIT IN CLOSED OFF PEWS**
12. Groups from the same household are permitted to sit together, remembering to maintain 2m social distance from other users of the pew.

13. Stewards will be positioned at main entrance door (2 max). Only the stewards to open/close/touch doors. Stewards to maintain 2m distance (when opening main glass door – use the door as protection/screen). Stewards to fully open both sets of vestibule doors at end of service. Stewards will have counters and will monitor numbers.
14. All people to maintain good hand hygiene practices - apply hand sanitiser on entry to and exit from the church.
15. It is strongly recommended that face coverings be worn when inside the church. If a face covering is not used for medical or other reasons, cover the mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve (not hands) when coughing or sneezing.
16. Exit after services to be one way only through main door, north and south transept doors whilst maintaining 2m social distance.
17. Beadle will be positioned at north transept door and will fully open corridor, north and south transept doors at end of service.
18. Enhanced cleaning of all touch points following each service will be undertaken in line with Health Protection Scotland guidance.
19. For those wishing to donate offerings, it is strongly encouraged that you donate to St Nicholas Church via <https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/donate/> however should you wish to donate via freewill offering, a red collection box will be available inside the main entrance vestibule. Please do not hand your donation to the stewards. Please place in the red box – thank you.
20. To avoid cross-contamination, Bibles and hymn books have been removed from the pews. **Please bring your own Bible if you wish.**
21. Unfortunately, singing is not yet permitted under the current guidance.

The Kirk Session are prayerfully considering how best to offer access to St Nicholas church services to our members who are shielding or not yet comfortable attending church. Considerations could include dial-a-service; CD recordings of service; online live link to service etc. If you have any suggestions/preference please speak to your Elder.

The commencement of Sunday School, Creche and other church organisations is under review and needs to be carefully planned to ensure the health and safety of our children, teachers and volunteers and further announcements will be made soon.

**THESE RULES FOLLOW GOVERNMENT AND CHURCH  
OF SCOTLAND GUIDELINES AND ARE AIMED AT  
REDUCING THE RISK TO OUR EMPLOYEES,  
MEMBERS, VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS. WE  
RESPECTFULLY ASK THAT YOU COMPLY WITH  
THEM.  
THANK YOU**