

To all members of and visitors to Prestwick St Nicholas Church

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

### **Scottish Government COVID-19 Protection Level 4**

**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 and a maximum of 20 people.**

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 continue on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November under new level 4 restrictions. Maximum number of **20** people are allowed in the church building plus **15** in the Old hall (providing the external entrance is used) at any one time (including Minister, Organist, Beadle, Door team and Sound team and other volunteers). Two diets of worship at 10.30am and 11.45am will continue and services will likely last for around 30/35 minutes 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 35 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. Do not be offended if the door is held closed until the vestibule is clear of the person in front. This is to cut down on risk of transmission and socially distance.
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 at all times.
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 and Old Hall.
15. It is mandatory 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 or the collection plate inside the Old Hall. 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. Recordings of the service are available by CD and on the St Nicholas Church website. Considerations could include dial-a-service; online live link to service etc. If you have any suggestions/preference, please speak to your Elder.

**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**