



Church of Scotland Presbytery of Ayr

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18th March 2020

Dear Presbyter,

You will now be aware of the impact of Covid-19 on all aspects of life **which now includes the cancellation of worship gatherings until further notice**. It should also be noted that the Presbytery Rural Conference scheduled for the 2nd May has been cancelled.

Over the past few weeks various documents and emails have been forwarded giving the necessary advice and instructions relating to how we deal with the threat of this virus. The purpose of this letter is not to replicate the advice and instructions already given but to ensure all members of Presbytery are aware of the current situation. I'm conscious that at the present time we have a number of vacant Congregations and Presbytery Members who may not have received all the necessary information. I also have enclosed, as attachments, certain additional practical advice which has come via 121 George Street that Congregations may find helpful.

The above attachments include:

- a) Briefing note from Angus Mathieson on 17th March 2020 which Parish Ministers will have received.
- b) Guidance Notes for Non-Health Care Settings. (Section 2.2 for Faith Settings)
- c) From the Principal Clerk on 17th March 2020
- d) Safeguarding Guidance 17th March 2020
- e) Self-isolation Help Cards.
This is a card which has been drawn up for assisting people who are self-isolating, which can be adapted. **I would advise that this should only be given to those on your safeguarding register.**

It is also essential that the guidelines on the Church of Scotland web site are followed, including the displaying of the posters.

The weeks ahead will no doubt be very challenging, therefore let us face the immediate future with a sense of understanding, cooperation and prayerful support.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself or the Presbytery Office if you have any queries.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Kenneth C. Elliott
Presbytery Clerk