

Some information and guidelines for visiting Auchtertool Kirk building

On Sunday 13th September we hope to have our morning service inside Auchtertool Kirk at 9.30am. This will be the first time since March and of course some things will be different, so please read this carefully. At the moment we cannot guarantee that we will be able to reopen the building that day, but it is what we are working towards. Confirmation that we are reopening will be on the website or phone your elder if you are unsure.

Face coverings, contact details

As with everywhere else, we are subject to the Scottish Government regulations. That means that a face covering must be worn at all times inside the buildings, covering both nose and mouth, unless you have medical exemption. The only exception to this is the minister while conducting worship. You will also be required to give your contact details at the door when you arrive. For many people we already have them, so name may well be sufficient.

Numbers, seating

Because of limited space a maximum of 15 households can be inside the church. Seats will be marked, as a distance of two metres will be kept. Please sit where you are asked to. This may well not be in your usual seat. Please don't come too early as it is safer if people are not inside the building for too long. We will be keeping doors open as long as possible for ventilation so please come suitably dressed.

Hygiene

There will be hand sanitiser as you come in but we hope you'll have to touch very little after that. We have decided to put hymnbooks into the pews and ask you, if you use one, to take it away with you and bring it whenever you come (assuming you want to come back!) We are not opening the portaloo at the moment so make sure you go before you come!

The service will be shorter than usual.

Socialising

There can be no tea and coffee and also no moving around and mixing within the building. If you are speaking to people nearby, either inside or outside the building, please keep the **two metre distance** and be aware that some people might feel quite vulnerable. That does mean no shaking hands or hugging - **a sign of our love for each other is to keep each other safe.**

Music

There can also be no singing or loud speaking, but we will have music and it is perfectly all right to hum quietly inside your mask and also to speak things like the Lord's Prayer.

Feedback

We are aware that a lot of what people enjoy in church might be missing. We want to make this as positive an experience as possible for people as well as a safe one. If this Sunday goes well we will build on it. We need feedback from you on what works and what doesn't, so please do tell us.

Worshipping online

Auchtertool Kirk does not currently have broadband so it's not possible to livestream from the church. If anyone is in a position to help with that we would be delighted. The Linktown service at 11am will be filmed and if possible it will be screened live on youtube as we've been doing throughout lockdown. If that doesn't work, it will be made available as soon as possible afterwards. We do not want to stop our internet presence as we know that many more people worship in that way than come into the building.

Who should (not) come

With that in mind, no-one should feel under any pressure to come into the building. What we are doing is opening up a further possibility for people, especially as we are aware not everyone has been able to access what we do online.

If you feel vulnerable, then take your time. We will be doing both online and in person for some time, possibly now always.

And if you feel at all unwell, please do not come - even if you're the minister or the organist or have volunteered to be on duty!

Welcome

But we intend to open and you are invited to come and worship in person if you wish. It will be very good to see you!