



First Garvagh Presbyterian Church Guidelines for Sunday Worship

Getting Back to Church Safely

In accordance with the Executive public health advice and PCI guidelines we ask you to adhere to the following guidelines which are being implemented to ensure your health and the safety of others in our congregation.

Consideration of attendance

- Please do not feel pressured to attend our Sunday worship, many of our congregation will not be able to join us for some time due to their own vulnerability or of others in their household.
- If you wish to remain at home remember that the service will be recorded onto DVDs or USB sticks for distribution later that day. We are also currently updating our media system that will allow services to be live streamed on You-Tube from the end of August.
- Unfortunately, there will be no minibus available until further notice.
- *Most importantly if you have any symptoms of Covid -19 such as a high temperature, shortness of breath, cough or loss of taste or smell you must not attend services.*

Entering the Church

- Please try to arrange with family members to enter the church at the same time so that you can sit together.
- You are encouraged to wear a face covering, especially in the communal areas of the church such as vestibule and aisles.
- For those who feel well and able to attend please familiarise yourself with the following new arrangements.
- At all times adhere to 2m social distancing guidelines.
- Hand gel will be available for your use upon entering and leaving the church.
- Both the main church door and back door will be kept open for your arrival and departure.
- Please do not shake hands and try to avoid touching surfaces.
- Please do not congregate in the vestibule.
- Those entering via the front door will be guided by a steward to seats on the left side. (Kilrea Road side of the church). Those entering via the back door will be guided to seats on the right side (car park-side of the church).

Seating

- The stewards will show you to a seat, which will not be your usual seat. Seats will be filled in order from the front to the back.

- You will be asked to sit a minimum of 2m from others outside of your family or social bubble. Family members do not need to social distance.
- Alternate seats will be taped off and cushions removed to ensure social distancing between rows.
- The seats in the gallery will be used once the ground levels seats are all full.
- The choir will sit as part of the congregation.

Children

- There will also be no Sunday School. During the service children will remain with their families during the service at all times. Children will not be asked up to the front pew for the children's address, there will be no Children's Church and no crèche for the time being. (The main hall will be available as a breakout space for families to do activities with their own children during services. Please bring your own toys etc.)

During the Service

- If during the service you feel the need to leave, you can do so.

Toilets

- The toilets are open but we would ask that you please try to minimise their use and adhere to social distancing guidelines at all times.

Offering

- There will be no offering taken but offering plates will be placed at the back of the church at the end of the service. Please consider giving through direct debits or money transfers. Details can be found on the church website.

Leaving the Church

- After the Benediction please remain in your seats until a steward advises you when and how to leave. Rows will be vacated one at a time. You will be guided to leave by the same door that you came in. Please do not congregate in the vestibule.

Record of Attendance

- We have been advised to keep a record of all attendees which will be done through our media system.

Other Organisations

- There will be no evening services until further notice and similarly there will be no organisations meeting until further notice.

Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge. Psalm 16:1