

## An update for the people of Sandyhills Parish Church

You may have heard the announcements over the past week or so about church buildings now being allowed to reopen for worship and that is a positive step forward from where we have all been during lockdown. Unfortunately, this would not be a return to normal church life. As people entered the church building, they would be asked to give their name and address. Face masks would have to be worn and there would be no singing at all. Physical distancing of 2 metres would be in place and there would be no fellowship over tea and coffee at the end of the service. As well as all these measures in place the number of people able to attend would be drastically reduced. Therefore, as a Kirk Session, we have decided that, for the moment our church buildings will remain closed.



We have formed a Task Group who are currently working through all the preparations that have to be done before any Church of Scotland Church can open which then will need to be approved by Presbytery. Everyone's health and wellbeing are of paramount importance and that is a huge factor in our decision to currently not reopen our building at this time. As soon as we have information about our building being reopened, we will let you know.

I say building because we want to make it clear that "Church" in Sandyhills Parish is very much alive and active – it is only our building that is closed. We still meet to worship the Lord every Sunday (albeit it looks different just now with our gathering taking place virtually). I miss worshipping with my brothers and sisters in Christ in our building, hearing the Lord's name being praised as we, young and old, lift up our voices worshipping our Saviour, I really do, and I know I am not alone. I cannot wait until we can gather again in person, but until that time we continue to try and be creative and faithful to who the Lord has called us to be in this place. Our services are still being streamed every Sunday at 10:30am on our YouTube channel.

I thank you for your prayers, faith and patience. I ask that you continue to pray for us as a Kirk Session and pray for the Task Group too. God is faithful, and we have known His hand upon us during this difficult time and as C H Spurgeon said, "We cannot always trace God's hand, but we can always trust God's heart."

Yours in Christ,  
Norman.