**Banchory Ternan East Church**

The Kirk Session have agreed that our church can reopen for public worship. This is in line with Scottish Government and Church of Scotland guidelines.

Worship in the church will begin on **Sunday 20th September** at the normal time of **10.30am**.

Online services will still be available for those who don’t feel ready to return to the church buildings.

**What can I expect when I return to church?**

There will be a number of safety precautions which need to be adhered to.

* A maximum number of 50 people will be allowed in the church to ensure we maintain the social distancing rule of 2 metres.
* You can, if you wish, book your place in advance by completing the online form on the church website, Facebook or by telephoning 07899276692.
* The service will be shorter than normal and should last no more than 30 minutes.
* Names and contact details will be recorded and retained for 28 days for NHS Scotland’s Test and Protect System.
* There will be no church transport provided.
* Face coverings must be worn when in the building (unless you cannot do so for medical grounds).
* You will be required to sanitise your hands before entering and leaving the building – sanitiser will be provided.
* You may have to queue outside the church, maintaining physical distance, before being invited to enter. Entry will be through the main door only.
* The offering can be given at the entrance door. It would help to minimise handling if you were able to make your offering online or by standing order.
* The doors will remain open until the service starts to reduce touch points and help with ventilation.
* The church will have been cleaned and surfaces sanitised.
* There will be a one-way system in the church and you will be shown where to sit. The balcony will be closed.
* Please remain in your allocated seat and at the end of the service remain seated until told otherwise.
* Children are welcome but must sit in their family group.
* There will be no singing as per the guidelines.
* There will be no teas or coffees following the service.
* Please continue to observe social distancing guidelines once you leave the church. You are asked to depart the church grounds promptly.

It is important to stress that is up to individuals as to whether or not they wish to attend.

The Church of Scotland has an assessment tool for individual and group health risks which you may wish to refer to. A copy of this is included for your attention.

**Do not attend if you display any of these coronavirus symptoms -**

**persistent cough, high temperature, loss of taste or smell.**