



# Tullamore Presbyterian Church

These last few months have been a difficult and worrying time for many of us. I want to assure you that you are in our prayers regularly. We are finally coming to the end of the time during which churches have had to remain closed.

Our first service back to church after lockdown will be at 12 noon on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July.

I am very much looking forward to worshipping God once more with our church family in our church building. Online worship has been good but has often lacked the closeness and fellowship of meeting together in a physical church service.

Due to the restrictions around social distancing, the church service might seem strange at first but we hope that gradually things will be able to return to normal. I have included with this letter a list of some of the guidelines that we will be following to help make church as safe as possible over the coming weeks and months. If we work together, with good humour and grace, we can help to keep each other safe.

Some of you might feel worried about coming to church and this is only normal after such a long time apart. We want you to be able to come back to church at your own pace and in your own time. Because of this, we will continue to broadcast the church service live on Facebook on Sundays at 12 and upload the service to YouTube by Sunday evening.

We are all learning what to do in these uncertain and stressful times and so the Elders and Committee will continually review the procedures we are using and adapt them with a view to keeping us all as safe as possible.

With thanks,

Rev William Hayes

## **Church Guidelines for the “New Normal”**

### 1) Arriving at Church

Please do not come to church if you, or anyone you live with, has symptoms such as a fever, a new cough, difficulty breathing, loss of sense of smell, etc.

Please do not come to church if you have been told to quarantine by the doctor or because of travel.

Please arrive early for the service as this will help us get everyone in and seated on time for church to start. The building will be open from 11:30am.

Only one family at a time can be in the porch. We will check your temperature on the way in, if you have a temperature above 37.5°C the HSE recommends that you do not attend.

If you are able to, please wear a facemask. It might seem strange at first but facemasks have been proven to help reduce the spread of viruses and you will be protecting your fellow churchgoers as well as yourself.

Please use the hand gel provided and follow the instructions of the stewards who will show you to your seats. Once in your seats please respect other families and do not move around the room unnecessarily.

Please make sure we have up to date contact details for you in case we have to provide it for contact tracing.

### 2) During the service

There will be no community singing for the next few weeks but there will still be music in the church services.

There will be no offering collected but there will be offering plates at the entrance where you can give your donation. Standing order forms are available at the front of the church.

### 3) After the service

Please follow the stewards advice and allow people to leave church from the back first so that there will be no crowding at the door.

There will be no tea and coffee served after the service.