



Our Mission Statement

*We aim to be a welcoming fellowship, proclaiming in worship the gospel of Jesus Christ,
ready to serve with compassion the needs of the community.*

Trinity

Parish Church Newsletter - Spring / Summer 2020

Interim Moderator Rev Fraser K Turner

Tel: 01463 794004

Hope

"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (Rom 15:4 ESV).

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused us all a lot of problems. Like all churches in our denomination, we are obligated to follow the directive to cancel all worship services due to the Covid-19 pandemic. And that's why the Kirk Session decided that as a matter of prudence we should cancel everything that takes place on our premises until further notice.

As a Reformed Church we recognise the Lord commands His people to meet for corporate worship every Lord's Day. The Fourth Commandment calls on us to, *"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy"* (ex 20:8 ESV, see also 2nd command Ex 20:4). The Sabbath was instituted at Creation, when God called the seventh day holy (Gen 2:3), and on that day He rested from His works. We, too, are to rest on the Lord's Day.

In the New Testament, the writer to the Hebrews instructs us with these words: *"not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near"* (Heb 10:25 ESV). The first day of the week—ie, Sunday—is set aside for Christian worship. There is no specific change to a day mentioned in the New Testament. Under the Old Covenant, the Sabbath celebrated God's work of Creation; however, today, we celebrate God's Creation under the New Covenant as well, only now the emphasis is on the new Creation in Christ (Gal 6:15), which was established by His resurrection on the first day of the week.

This pandemic is so unusual that it is wise to obey the directives of Westminster and Holyrood and our denomination, to ensure the virus is stopped from spreading. In the light of what has been demanded of us, it is, therefore, not a sin to stop meeting together. On the other hand, it is a sin not to meet with God's people for corporate worship when we are able to resume meeting again.

I want you to note that via Trinity's website there is a link to YouTube where there is an exposition of Scripture uploaded each week. While this is helpful in terms of instruction, it is not corporate worship.

Not gathering on the Lord's Day is something that you miss, as I do too, so please pray that we can return to the Lord's House to worship Him in spirit and truth as soon as it is safe to do so.

Keep well and do stay safe.

Planning for the re-opening church buildings for worship

The next announcement from the Scottish Government on this is expected around **Thursday 18th June, as part of phase 2** of the framework for easing restrictions on lockdown. More information on these phases can be found on the Scottish Government website.

Phase 2 allows for churches to be open for private prayer, and for marriages to take place, with a limited number of attendees, all subject to physical distancing and hygiene safeguards.

Phase 3 of easing restrictions is expected to be announced on Thursday 9th July. Places of worship will be allowed to open for extended groups, again, subject to physical distancing and hygiene safeguards.

These phases are conditional on a number of requirements, all set out in the framework document, mainly around a low or decreasing infection rate. Please note too that no building can legally open without a legally mandated COVID risk assessment, the paperwork for which is being prepared.

Whilst the dates of moving into different phases will be communicated by the Scottish Government, there is no expectation that all Church of Scotland buildings will open on these key dates. It will be for Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to consider carefully how these permissions might be used in local contexts.

These are indeed strange times. We are scattered and our Church is closed. We are missing the fellowship, and companionship, of our friends and relatives. We cannot plan ahead for we are uncertain as to the shape of our future. We do not know how long this state of affairs will last, or, according to some commentators, whether it will indeed end. So, an uncertain future with changed ways of doing things and a challenge to us all. In this brief issue we are concentrating on three of those challenges; Pastoral Care, keeping in touch and cash flow. Pastoral Care is a fundamental element of our purpose and is difficult to carry out if there is no, or limited, exchange of information, hence the importance of keeping in touch.

Cash Flow is becoming an issue. While other organisations and charities can get payment holidays, we are not so lucky. The wider work of the church continues and maintaining a sustainable income is crucial to keep up with obligations to Edinburgh.

Keeping in touch has never been an issue until now. I'm sure you were all social networking before you were socially distancing! However, with reduced, or no, face to face contact our network is not functioning well, and we seek to remedy this. Data Protection legislation lets us use your contact details in the delivery of our witness and worship. However, it may come as a surprise to learn that the official register of Members and Adherents only contains Names and Addresses. Telephone numbers are not listed (Oh, how I miss pressing Button B and getting my money back!) and of course technology has advanced far beyond what our parents or grandparents could imagine. So, here is a brief guide to keeping in touch.

To know what we are doing you can access the Church website or receive the newsletter.

To let us know of an issue, you can write, telephone, or e-mail the Church. It would also be possible to use text messages.

To chat with others, you can use Facebook or Messenger.

To have meetings with others you can use Skype or Zoom.

In order for the Church to contact you we would need to know a) how you wished to be contacted, and b) what contact address to use.

As we seek to develop a robust means of keeping in touch during this pandemic we would appreciate if you would support this initiative and let us know your answers to the above questions together with any other thoughts on how best to achieve our goal. We are happy for feedback in any form but would suggest an e-mail to the Church would be simplest. Thankyou.

Trinity Church, Huntly Place, Inverness, Inverness-Shire, IV3 8HA

Tel: 01463 221490

e-mail: invernesstrinitychurch@gmail.com

PASTORAL CARE

Keeping up with the Pastoral Care of the Congregation has never before been as important as it is in the situation in which we are currently living.

Myself, Isobel Morrison, Margaret Ryles and Pat Murray - where we can - are keeping in touch with members of the Congregation by telephone.

As we do not have up to date contact telephone numbers held on our Church premises we are relying on each other, other Church Members, the BT internet search engine of 118500 or the old fashioned telephone directory in order to obtain the information we require to be in a position to give someone a call.

If you have been missed out and would like a call, please do not hesitate to provide me with your details, I am quite happy to call anyone back for a chat or alternatively to pass your details on to the other ladies who will be happy to get in touch.

If anyone is struggling and needs help with anything at all, please do not hesitate to let me know, I will do my best to help you out. Donna Clark

Telephone (Home) 01463 232174 (Mobile) 07746142421 Email: donnac54@hotmail.co.uk

How Trinity Church Halls are being used during this Pandemic

"RokzKool" are a local group working with young needy children in the community along with encouragement for their parents on a weekly basis.

Initially the group were operating in the Corbett Centre on Saturday Mornings. They had to move out of the Corbett Centre when the Coronavirus restrictions on vulnerable groups were imposed as the people who use the Corbett Centre are in this category. We were asked and offered our Hall for use by the group. Unfortunately, the work carried out with the young people of the community had to cease due to the Coronavirus Lockdown restrictions. What has taken over is the urgent need for cooked meals and food parcels in the community and again we were asked for the use of the facilities for this need. To date 1189 meals and 1203 food boxes have been delivered to homes in the local area. Praise be to God for generosity of spirit shown by so many at this time.

To show their appreciation the RokzKool Group sent this email to thank us for the use of our facilities.

Email from RokzKool

Thank you to all at Trinity Church.

thank you for allowing us to have the use of your amazing halls and Kitchen.

Thank you for your kind donations of food and essentials which are gratefully received.

Thank you for your kind donations of money which has allowed us to keep going.

For a year and a half our wee charity has been supporting some families who reside in the Merkinch area. We have provided meals and access to musical instruments, giving tuition to the children and encouragement to the adults.

Since the start of the on-going Pandemic we have continued to supply some locals with much needed food. Some of the recipients are in financial hardship. Some are in poor health. Some are just scared and need reassurance.

We at RokzKool Academy are proud to be working alongside your congregation to make a little difference in the lives of others.

Kay, Rod and the RokzKool team.

Clothes Bank at Trinity

In response to a local family who lost their house and possessions in a fire recently, Trinity Church have through a facebook plea been collecting children's clothes from homes around Inverness. They have been astounded at the generosity of the local people and have collected enough clothes for many more needy families. The clothes are being stored in Trinity church Hall. The surplus clothes collected will be delivered to families in need in the Inverness area. The family who lost their home have now been re-housed and are doing well.

