



NETWORK

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**Barnhill St Margaret's Parish Church
Invermark Terrace, Barnhill DD5 2QU**

Minister: Rev. Alisa McDonald



A message from the Interim Moderator

Dear Friends,

In recent weeks several people have asked about reopening the church for worship, wondering why it is taking so long. Alas, the time scale is down to Scottish Government and Church of Scotland Guidance and the procedures we must follow before we can open.

However, at a Kirk Session meeting on 28th July, the Kirk Session appointed a small working group to oversee the actions required following our Covid-19 Risk Assessment. At their first meeting they set a deadline of Sunday 23rd August for the first opening of the church for worship and since then they have been working to put the necessary infrastructure in place to enable us to follow the Guidelines.

Unfortunately, we will be

limited to a maximum of fifty at each service and we have to record details of everyone who attends.

We have therefore decided that everyone who wished to come to the church service in person will have to 'book' a place by contacting Alison in the Church Office by phone or by email. Further details in side.

For those who don't wish (or are unable) to come the service in the building there will continue to be recorded services online and sent out by DVD.

Initially, places at worship will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis, but there will then be an option for those unable to attend one week to be first in the queue the following week.

Government Guidance will also limit what we can do during worship, the most obvious change being the absence of singing. However, we can still have music and we can project

material onto the screen, so a shorter but meaningful service will still be possible.

Sunday services will be at 10.30am with entry via the glass doors on the north side of the church, but to avoid the close contact of queuing, it would be best if everyone does not arrive at the last minute. Please note that after worship the church will be closed for 72 hours before weekly cleaning takes place. This gives time for any viral contamination to become inactive.

We appreciate your patience during this difficult time, but please be assured that our first priority continues to be the safety of our members and worshippers. In this regard, please do not come to worship if you are feeling unwell or have any covid symptoms.

Rev David A Collins,
Interim Moderator

News from Lorna Tunstall, Probationary Minister



Dear friends of Barnhill St Margaret's,

As you are all aware I have been serving as a probationary minister at Barnhill St Margaret's for the past 15 months – a time that I will never forget and during which I have certainly learnt so much. I would like to share my good news that I have been asked to preach as Sole Nominee for the joint linked parish of Clyne linked with Kildonan and Loth, Helmsdale. This is a linked parish set in the beautiful villages of Brora and Helmsdale in Sutherland Presbytery. All being well I would hope to be Ordained as their full time minister at some point late September or October this year.

To that end, I will of course soon have to leave Barnhill St Margaret's. My probationary period was due to finish on 31st August however this has been extended so that my final Sunday with you all will be on Sunday 13th September.

I had hoped to invite you all to my Ordination but due to Covid-19 restrictions this will be a very limited occasion, we are hoping to have a celebratory service at some point in the future to which you will all be invited.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for all the support and generosity you have shared with me during my time with you all. Barnhill St Margaret's has helped shaped my ministry and you will forever be in my prayers.

I truly wish you all the blessings for your own future as you enter a period of vacancy.

God Bless –

Lorna

**We are extremely grateful for our time with Lorna
We wish her all the very best in her next steps
and every blessing throughout her future ministry.**

The 'How –To' of coming to church services in person

1) Book your place

At present Government regulations allow for services of worship to include up to 50 people. In order not to have to turn anyone away, and to make sure we are able to comply with 'Track and Trace' processes, those coming to a service must book a place through the church office.

You can email Alison at church.office@btconnect.com with your name, contact number and details of everyone who is hoping to attend.

Alternatively you can phone 01382 737294 from 10am-12.30pm on weekdays, or leave a message on the answering machine.

In the unfortunate situation that worship is 'full' you will be given priority the next week.

If there is space, someone will let you know. Please avoid coming on Sunday morning if you haven't been told there is a space for you. It would be heartbreaking for us to have to consider turning people away.

2) Coming on the day

Please come to Church wearing a face covering (unless there is an exception that prevents you wearing one).

There will be clear signage and instructions as you enter the building. Please use the disinfectant hand gel stations as you enter and leave.

It is important that we maintain a 2-metre physical distance in and around the church building. We will have special procedures in place to help us achieve that, and you will be directed to a specific seat when you arrive to maintain the spacing requirements.

3) Worship God

It will be strange. It will not be 'back to normal'. Nonetheless, God loves us and we will return that love in our worship.

CHURCH REGISTER

Funerals:

*We remember those
who have died recently:*

Gordon Scott
Allardyce Main
Marion Anderson
Barbara Balfour
James Lornie
Victoire Chalmers



They that wait upon the
LORD
shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up
with wings as eagles;



Isaiah: 40:31

From Andrew Kimmitt, our locum:

It is a strange introduction to a ministering in a congregation to find that all forms of physical social contact have become prohibited! These last months have been strange and scary times, and without a vaccine or any other 'quick fix' ahead of us we must still be vigilant and continue to care for ourselves and each other.

This has been a strained time, people we have loved have been isolated, some have fallen ill, and some have died without us having been able to say goodbye as we might have liked. For anyone reading this who has been touched by the sharp edge of Covid-19, know that you have been in our prayers throughout, and you continue so to be.

Though we are beginning to get back to 'in-person' services of worship, know that there is no pressure to rush back to the building. We must each make our own choices. God cherishes our prayers and worship in whatever form they come — no more or less in the church building, than in our pyjamas on the iPad! God's love is assured at all times and places.

These last few months we have been privileged to work with our neighbours in the Sidlaw congregations and at Monifieth Parish Church to provide recorded 'digital' worship each week. I know I am extremely grateful for colleagues in these congregations—it has been a learning curve for us all, and one that none of us could have even dreamed of alone.

At Barnhill we are going to continue providing 'digital' worship, which will have the same content as the Sunday service, shared on Facebook, Youtube, and by sending out DVDs. Please do be in touch if you would like a DVD sent out to you, and otherwise you can join us online in the following ways:



www.bit.ly/BSMworship



www.facebook.com/barnhillstmargarets

Contacts



To contact
Lorna Tunstall
our Probation Minister,
telephone 07920773382 or
email LTunstall
@churchofscotland.org.uk



To contact Andrew
Kimmitt our
Locum Minister
telephone 07752306462
or e-mail
AKimmitt
@churchofscotland.org.uk



To contact Beth Duncan
our Pastoral Assistant,
telephone 01382 779887
or e-mail
duncansathome
@btopenworld.com

Barnhill St Margaret's Church Office, 1 Guthrie Terrace, Barnhill, Dundee DD5 2QX
Telephone 01382 737294

e-mail: church.office@btconnect.com
www.bsmchurch.org.uk
SCO11017