

Dear friends,

As the first month of 2022 draws to a close I am writing with some important updates regarding our church community. It is good news that covid restrictions have begun to ease again after the concerns over the christmas and new year period. So, to this end, we are reflecting this in our church life with the following:

- We are respectfully asking that people continue to wear face coverings when they are moving around our church building. However they can be removed when you are seated and for singing if you wish.
- We can now stand to sing if you wish.
- We would like to resume the bringing forward of the offering plate during our worship. If you are bringing an offering to the church service we are asking that you place it in the offering plate which will be at the entrance to the church space **before the service begins**. The plate will then be brought forward and dedicated by the leader of worship at a designated point in the service.
- If you would prefer to use a hymnbook rather than the screen they will now be available, along with Bibles, at the entrance to the church space. Please help yourself and return any books used to the shelves at the end of the service.
- We are still operating our one-way system in and out of church – please continue to use this.
- Please continue to use hand sanitiser on entering and leaving the building.

As we have done throughout the pandemic, we continue to have a care and concern for the most vulnerable amongst us so we ask that this attitude continues as we hope to enter into what feels like a more normal routine.

Along with this letter I have also sent out a document that gives information on the same-sex marriage consultations that were held at the end of last year and the subsequent church council decision that was taken last week. It is my belief that we have conferred well on this issue and listened to each other as we have shared our views. May we continue to be a community that values each one of us, no matter our differences and the contradictory convictions we hold, as we continue to journey as God's people together.

Blessings

Claire