



St Nicholas, Sighthill Parish Church of Scotland
124 Sighthill Loan
Edinburgh, EH11 4NT
Tel (office): 07306 100 111
Website: www.stnicholasedinburgh.org.uk
Registered Charity No. SC 007068

Dear Friends

It seems a long time since we were able to go to church on Sundays but I am delighted to tell you that the long wait is finally over and we have been given permission from Presbytery to open our sanctuary for worship once more.

However, many changes have had to be put in place for this to happen! The biggest change is the number of worshipers allowed in the sanctuary. Unfortunately, because we have pews and not chairs, the numbers will be reduced at present to 25 although that does not include the door team and others to make sure all runs smoothly. Clearly, we will not be back to our usual number on Sundays which means we will have to make decisions on who can come. We will ensure that anyone who express a wish to attend but cannot once we have our full quota, will be first in line for a subsequent Sunday. No-one should lose out as we will still be broadcasting the service via "Zoom" as we do at present. We would urge all who intend to come to church to look at our Church website (<https://stnicholasedinburgh.org.uk/>) as this will have all the details of the restrictions we are required to follow. The website also includes a helpful video to take you through the one-way system which we are required to put in place.

The main requirements are as follows:

- The wearing of face coverings is compulsory **at all times** when you are in the church
- Hand sanitising is necessary on entering and leaving the church.
- A one-way system means entry by the main (west) door only, apart from those requiring the disabled ramp at the back door
- Please remember to remain two metres apart.
- You will be required to register your name and contact details upon entering the sanctuary
- The restricted seating (a plan is on the website) allows only the end of the pews to be used (and not all pews will be in use). If you are part of a family "bubble" you will be allowed to sit together.
- You should remain seated throughout as no socialising is allowed.
- There will be no pew cushions or bibles at the pews.
- Sadly, singing is not allowed.
- There will be no socialising after the service when you will be asked to leave in an orderly fashion by the exit door at the front of the sanctuary.
- Only one toilet will be available, and
- Doors will be left open so that we get a breeze through the church. So please wrap up well and bring your own water if required.

We are sorry that we are faced with so many restrictions but, as we are sure you appreciate, they are necessary at the moment to keep us all safe and to guard against the spread of Covid 19. As a result of the reduced capacity you will also need to book in advance to attend services.

*To book for our first service on 8 November (Remembrance Service), please contact our Data Protection Officer Thelma Hunter either by church mobile (07306 100 111) or Thelma's email (thelmahunter@virginmedia.com) **between Thursday 5 November (from 10.00am) and Friday 6 November (by 6pm at the latest)**. Similarly booking for all subsequent services will be on the Thursday and Friday prior to each service.*

We very much look forward to seeing you.

With every blessing

Tom Kisitu

Minister: Rev Dr Tom Kisitu, PhD
The Manse, 122 Sighthill Loan
Edinburgh, EH11 4NT
Home: 0131 442 3978;
Mobile: 079 3160 6330
Email: tmkisitu@churchofscotland.org.uk

John Wallace

Session Clerk: John Wallace
44 North Gyle Grove
Edinburgh, EH12 8JZ
Mobile: 079 2935 6279
Email: jrw Wallace44@hotmail.com

Heather Seggie

Clerk to the Congregational Board: Heather Seggie
17 Baberton Mains Gardens
Edinburgh, EH14 3BY
Mobile: 077 4912 5570
Email: heatherseggie@blueyonder.co.uk