

COVID-19

Worship

The Church of Scotland has advised that all Church services are cancelled with immediate effect. It is likely that this will go beyond Easter and into April. The Minister, collaborating with the Director of Music, Praise Band and a small team of volunteers, will produce a weekly recorded service. These will be placed on a new Helensburgh Parish Church YouTube channel and broadcast at 11 am every Sunday morning. We aim to deliver a recording of this to those who would normally receive a CD.

e-Bulletin

We will be creating a weekly e-bulletin throughout this period. If you'd like to be added to the mailing list please email Julia at office@helensburghcos.org - it is envisaged that the e-Bulletin will have details of the lectionary bible reading for Sunday, a short poem or thought and a prayer. This will also be used to remind people of the information contained in this page, and to communicate any other important news. If you'd like to contribute a prayer or a thought to be shared amongst our membership please let us know.

Pastoral Care

The Minister has asked that every Elder telephone each member in their district and follow up those calls throughout this current crisis. During this period our contact will be by telephone or email. If you are willing to help by telephoning people then please let the Minister know - if we receive requests we will look to the creation of 'Telephone Trees' so that everyone is able to connect with someone.

Funerals

It will not be possible to have these in the Church, but the Minister will still be conducting funerals at the crematorium or at a graveside. Anyone who has a bereavement should contact an undertaker, and then the arrangements will be made. It is probable that restrictions on numbers at funerals will be imposed; if these come in it may be that a simple funeral service will be held, with the offer of a thanksgiving service later on.

Practical Help

We have considered how to offer appropriate practical support where possible to those who have self-isolated and who have no extended family or others able to provide basic help. Consequently, if you are willing to help with collecting basic shopping, pick up and deliver prescriptions, or post letters, please contact the Minister by email or telephone. This work will be co-ordinated using WhatsApp so please indicate that you are happy to be added to this group. We will keep this matter under review and continue to assess its sustainability. Only consider volunteering if you are not in the 'vulnerable' category yourself, and are fully fit and well!

Facebook

If you're a Facebook user we have created a group specifically for members and friends of HPC to keep in touch. Please type 'Helensburgh Parish Church group' into the search bar for joining details. This is another good way for us to stay connected.

Finance

Please keep up to date with your financial giving via standing order or direct debit, or save your envelopes and financial gifts and bring them to church when we re-open. There will be a significant impact on Church finances over these weeks so your continuing, or increased, generosity will be particularly important.

The Minister can be contacted by email: minister@helensburghcos.org or by telephone: 07508 628 133; if you want to text or WhatsApp him he'd also be happy to hear from you in this way.