

Use of church premises: October 2020

This is being written to keep people informed of the current 'state of play' as far as the Aberfeldy Parish Church buildings are concerned. It is greatly regretted that the pandemic has caused such severe disruption not only to our normal services, events and 'programmes' but also to the many organisations that have taken advantage of the facilities on a regular basis over recent years. Unfortunately, there is no end in sight just now and I can but apologise to those who would like to be using the building at this time that it is not possible. We would love to open things out as soon as it is feasible to do so and will contact former users once we are able to see a way forward.

The Sanctuary

This is currently open for funerals, two of which have been conducted in recent weeks. The maximum number of mourners is 20 and detailed precautions are taken to adhere to Covid-19 guidelines issued by the Scottish Government and the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh. Funerals are normally conducted on a Wednesday and, although the chairs and critical areas are suitably treated, it is strongly recommended that there should be a minimum lapse time of 3 days between uses.

The Lawers Room

This is currently being used by the Community Larder for storage and distribution of food for local families in need of support. This is a priority use for the church and unless an alternative facility is found for this important service this room is likely to be unable to be used for anything else in the foreseeable future.

Farragon and Rainbow rooms

Both of these rooms are currently being used to store chairs removed from the Sanctuary and other furniture.

Toilets

The only toilet available for use is the disabled toilet, which must be disinfected after use.

Kitchen

The kitchen should not be used. It currently has a steam cleaner, some instruction sheets and check lists together with some cleaning materials. It is not available for any catering purposes including the making of tea/coffee which is not permitted by national church regulations.

Vestry

The CAP office is available for use via the Tower doors as is the AV cupboard for funerals.

General

It is appreciated that occasional access to the church is required for maintenance purposes and to occasionally access the photocopier cupboard or to obtain files. Users are asked to adhere to the following guidelines.

1. Unless there are good reasons otherwise single person usage should be regarded as the norm.
2. Please ensure that any surfaces that are touched are wiped down using paper towels and alcohol solution-available in the Welcome Area and in the kitchen. Wipe down light switches, door handles, the key safe et alia.
3. Please observe and respect the signage within the church restricting access to certain facilities.

Youth work

It is permitted for youth work programmes to be activated. Currently Breathe activities are being undertaken using the Breathe centre in the old library, being outside or on-line. However, it is possible, In the event of inclement weather and darker nights, that a limited number of young people will be able to use the Sanctuary, within current youth work protocols.

Trace and Protect

It is important that anyone who requires access to the building should complete the Trace and Protect sheets available in the kitchen.

Single Point of Information – Building Use

It is vital that we have one named individual who knows every occasion when the building has been entered, and when the building is planned to be used, or entered. At present that individual is myself. Could I ask that you ensure that I am informed as soon as possible if you intend to use the building or will have to enter for any use. **My number is 07783 303367.**

With thanks in advance for everybody's co-operation in this.

Angus Macdonald

(Session Clerk)

3 October 2020