



Safeguarding our church Covid-19 Preparedness at St Margaret's

9 October 2020

We have pre-recorded and posted online twenty-eight services for the St Mags community (and beyond) to watch and enjoy each Sunday, during the lockdown.

This weekend is significant and exciting since the whole church is invited to attend our first official in-person service at the St Margaret's building since mid-March.

Safeguarding our church

It is good to see that the rate of infection has slowed and we have moved past the initial peak of the pandemic. However, we remain vigilant and aware that the virus remains a real and present danger to our community.

We are therefore grateful to Greg Montile (our Operational Health and Safety consultant) and Richard Aitken who has been hard at work preparing us, and the building for in-person services under the new restrictions.

So what will a church service look like in this new season?

New seating layout

The first thing you will notice is that we have rearranged the church seating in order to see how

many people we can admit under the gazetted requirement for social distancing. Each chair and cluster of chairs are now socially distanced by 1.5m, as well as leaving aisles 1.5m wide. By using the stage area we are now able to accept up to 40 people (not including those who will be involved in running the service).

Pre-Admission Registration

People who are attending this Sunday 11th October registered their interest and booked their seats with Kathy in the office, before 11 am on Thursday 8th October.

This will be the protocol each week. You will need to register your name with Kathy on the Thursday before the Sunday you wish to attend.

Please note. If you have not registered in advance by Thursday, we will not be able to admit you should you simply turn up on Sunday.

'What can I expect?' OHS video

If you would like to get a preview and see what the church is looking like now and hear more about the ways in which we have been working to safeguard those who attend in-person services, please see my video posted on YouTube, at this link: <https://youtu.be/xBqWDGfkh2Y>.

Covid-19 Protocols

We have compiled, as advised by Greg Montile, a list of measures in order to safeguard you, our church.

If you are keen to join us at in-person services then you will be agreeing to abide by the following protocols:

- Pre-service registration (advise Kathy before 11 am each Thursday)
- Those with underlying medical conditions and those over 60 are encouraged not to attend in-person services
- 1.5-2m social distancing at all times, including in the queue at the front door
- Mask to be worn during an entire worship session and whenever within the church boundary lines, including car park
- There is a no mask, no entry policy
- No children under 12 (we are looking to start kids work outside from November)

- No touching, no hugs at the peace or otherwise
- Service delivery will be from behind a transparent screen
- Services will from now be live-streamed rather than pre-recorded
- Hands must be sanitized at the door
- Registration and declaration of good health before entry
- Sliding doors to be open at all times to reduce the possibility of viral load

- Singing discouraged to reduce viral load and restricted by a mask during worship
- Reduced length of service to 35-40 minutes
- Communion will be to reduced liturgy and in One Kind (ie bread) only
- Quick exit after the final blessing
- No tea and eats provided
- No standing around chatting in the building, nor on-site afterwards
- Bring own bag to remove from the church any used tissues and sanitary products (we have no means by which we can safely dispose of these use materials)

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank You for the way You have watched over and protected our church community these last six months. We thank You for the way You have enabled us to come together as a church during this crisis to help one another, as well as those who were hungry under lockdown, especially the community down on the Point.

We are grateful for the opportunity now to reconvene at the St Margaret's building to come together once more at in-person services.

We now commit this new season of church life to You, Jesus. We ask for Your on-going protection over our church, community and nation, and ultimately an early end to this pandemic.

We pray and look forward to the day when we can return to a more 'normal' expression of worship at St Margaret's.

Amen.

I am very much looking forward to welcoming you back to the Lord's house this Sunday.

Love, Tim

Rev. Tim McGowan

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

9th - Michael Allison
10th - Glenda Allison
 Seth Clark
12th - Peter Lehman
14th - Megan & Lauren Smith
16th - Lesley Baytopp
18th - Moses Mbatha
 Lungile Mkhize
19th - Zandile Mkhize
21st - Heather Clark
23rd - Brian Ashworth
25th - Greg Matthews
29th - Barbara Wilson
30th - Clive Chamberlain

Anniversaries

28th - Paul & Claire Barrett

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

1st - Paul Barrett
 Graham Parsons
2nd - Crevan Pratt
3rd - Gary Biggins

Anniversaries

3rd - Stuart & Kim Clark
4th - Brian & Audrey Gilbert
10th - Brian & Barbara Wilson
26th - Mike & Irene Graham

8th - Debbie Russell
10th - Rachel Elliott
11th - Sarah Fenwick
14th - Jean van Veenhuizen
15th - Meryl Ballantyne
Garth Parsons
21st - Mable Lancaster
26th - Alastair Caddick
27th - Freya Pearson
29th - Kevin Smith
30th - Joan Clark

27th - Brian & Gayleen Ashworth
28th - George & Moonyeen Muller

A Little Humor

"The Bishop says social distancing won't be problem."





.If you would like to carry on giving to the weekly 'plate/box' manually, there is a Zapper code along with EFT banking details below.

Church banking details:

Bank: Standard Bank, Durban North

Code: 042 826

Acct: 051409615

If you have any articles, information, events or notices relating to St Mags and would like to include it in the newsletter. Please contact Leigh Parsons on mail@leighwillows.co.za



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St Margaret's Church · P O Box 20060 · Durban North · Durban, KwaZulu Natal 4060 · South Africa

