

Campsie Parish Church



Dear Friends,

As the coronavirus crisis deepens, there is an increasing sense of panic and confusion. We don't yet know how serious it might become, or how it is going to affect us. In the midst of all the confusion, at Campsie Parish Church we are following the advice of Church of Scotland, NHS Scotland, and the Scottish Government in taking sensible measures to prevent the spread of the virus. However, that advice can change quickly and so it may be that we have to cancel events at the last minute. We also don't yet know how Sunday morning worship will be affected, if at all. At the moment we have no plans to cancel Sunday morning worship, but please keep checking the website, or our Facebook page, and the Church noticeboards, for updates on all upcoming events, including services.

As regards orders of service and the newsletter - and indeed this letter - the evidence suggests that coronavirus can't be spread through letters and packages. The good news is that this type of virus is actually quite fragile and doesn't live very long outside the body. It particularly doesn't like paper - hence the 'catch it, bin it' advice.

In addition, as a community of faith, our concerns should not just be about how this crisis affects us as individuals but also how it is going to affect the poorest and most needy in our society. We have a responsibility to do all we can to contain this virus, but we also have a responsibility to care for those who may struggle to care for themselves.

We can of course pray, together and individually, for all those affected by the virus. There are many whose health is affected, and there are many who will be affected because they care for someone who is ill or vulnerable. Those who are currently in situations where they feel isolated may find themselves feeling even more isolated. The homeless are unable to care for themselves if they become sick and they are particularly vulnerable at this time. We should also pray for our health care professionals. They are in the front line and are putting themselves at risk while they care for us. In addition, there are many hidden consequences of this situation. For example, there are those who fear the cancellation of much longed-for events: weddings, holidays, and other celebrations. There may be those who will be unable to pay proper respect to a loved one who has died. There are many consequences of this situation and we should not underestimate the value of holding all of this before God in prayer.

We are all affected by the possibility of a deepening crisis, and we must all do our part in seeking to contain it. It is our responsibility to heed the advice given, and act upon it, no matter how disruptive it might be to our lifestyle. **We can make a difference!**

Your friend,

P.S. - Please remember to wash your hands!