

To members and friends of Wexford Presbyterian Church



Hi everyone

I hope all of you are keeping well. It has been good to see many of you out at church again since restrictions eased to allow us to restart services again on Sunday 5th July. Although our services are not quite the same as before, hopefully we are knowing God's blessing as we meet together around his Word.

As I mentioned in my last letter, no one should feel pressured to come to church during this time of pandemic, and I want to thank those who have returned for adhering to the new protocols.

Thank-you for your sympathy when my mum went to be with the Lord. My family draws great comfort from Jesus' words: *my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life.* (John 6:40)

Some of Julia's family came to visit us at the beginning of July. It was their first time to meet our son John, and everyone enjoyed the visit. It's my side's turn next weekend!

Their visit coincides with my Sabbatical Leave, which runs from Monday 17th August until Sunday 6th September. During this time if you need a minister please contact Rev Gary McDowell (Greystones). Gary may be reached by mobile 085 8714786 and landline 01 201 7354. During my absence services will be led on 23rd August by David Ambury (Lucan), on 30th August by Terry Price (Greystones) and on 6th September by Theo Douglas (Drogheda).

A Sabbatical is a time for "a minister to seek personal spiritual renewal and refreshment and also to have time and space to reflect on aspects of his ministry within the wider mission and ministry priorities of the congregation." (PCI). I hope to do some reading and study in the areas of Roman Catholic theology and practice, apologetics and preaching. I value your prayers and I look forward to seeing all of you again on September 20th. (I am leading the service in Kilkenny on September 13th and John Ellis (Kilkenny) will be in Wexford and Enniscorthy).

Today our Men's Community Bible Reading What's App group was reading from Psalm 85. It's a Psalm in which God's people call out to him for blessing and revival. We learn much here about the character

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of God: angry with his people for their sin, but forgiving them because of his unfailing love. It's a great reminder to us that in any situation we can approach God fully confident of his saving love and generous kindness because Christ has taken his displeasure from us.

Thank-you to those of you who have continued to give during the this time. Your giving makes it possible for our congregation to continue its work and witness.

God bless all of you,

David 086 042 4472

You set aside
all your wrath
and turned
from your
fierce anger.
Restore us
again, God our
Saviour, and
out away your
displeasure to-
wards us.

Psalms 85 verses
3-4

Coming back to church

- Check your health. If you have symptoms do not attend. You should not feel pressure to come back to church immediately. Indeed not coming back if you might have symptoms is one way to love your neighbour.
- Bring a Bible! Church hymn books and Bibles will not be available.
- Masks are preferable. Wearing a mask may protect the people around you, especially if you are infected asymptotically; by doing so you would be putting the interests of others first.
- Enter and exit quickly. Aim to be in the church as close to 10:30 a.m. as possible, and leave promptly after the service. There will be opportunities to mingle safely outside afterwards.
- Sanitize! Use the hand sanitizer provided on entry and exit.
- Singing. Did you know the minister and anyone speaking is expected to keep four metres distance from the congregation? On the same principle, for the moment, we are trying to in our services to have hymns and songs which are "softer" pieces. These may be listened to prayerfully or sung quietly.
- Keep giving. There will be no offering collected. Please leave your offering in the plate at the back of church as you arrive or leave. If you give electronically you might consider continuing to do this.
- Plan ahead. There will be limited access to toilets.
- Families sit together. Children are the responsibility of their parents/guardians. It is important that no one breaks the social distancing rules.

These procedures will change as new government and Assembly Buildings advice is issued.

