



Bon Accord Free Church Services in the Church v.10

COVID-19 Interim Update | Effective 16 August 2021

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Changes relating to COVID-19

Due to the ongoing threat of the COVID-19 virus, the Scottish Government and the Free Church of Scotland have published guidance to assist churches in the safe return to gathered congregational worship. Bon Accord Free Church has implemented several new processes to ensure the safety of visitors to the church building and have now returned to gathered congregational worship services on Sunday mornings (11.00am) and evenings (6.00pm).

For those watching online, links for the live-stream of both services can be found on the [Bon Accord Free Church website](#). This document will outline the new processes for anyone accessing the church building.

Capacity

The capacity restrictions have now been lifted.

Registration system

With the removal of the Scottish Government's capacity restrictions and the need for Test & Protect within places of worship, the registration facility has now ended.

Test and Protect

Test & Protect is now no longer required in places of worship.



We do recommend you download the Government's Protect Scotland app (if compatible with your phone). More information is available [here](#).

Physical distancing

Physical distancing is no longer required.

Hygiene

Hand sanitiser stations have been added at key locations in Bon Accord Free Church for everyone to use when entering and exiting the building. Individuals are encouraged to maintain good hand and respiratory hygiene (e.g. for coughs or sneezing), including frequent hand washing/use of hand sanitiser to kill viruses that may be on hands. Signs and reminders are visible throughout the building to communicate information about how to minimise the risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus and the rules on physical distancing and hygiene safeguards.

Face masks

Anyone entering Bon Accord Free Church must wear a face covering at all times in the church building.

The minister is not required to wear a face covering during the service. Other exemptions to the wearing of a face coverings, including for health reasons and for children under 12, can be found in the [Scottish Government guidance on the use of face coverings](#).

Singing and music

From 06 June congregational singing is permitted during services. As per Scottish Government guidelines face masks are to be worn throughout the services, including during the singing (normal exemptions apply).

Other safety measures and changes

- The normal process of meeting together for tea and coffee after the service remains suspended at this time.
- Offerings – Individuals are encouraged to give their offering by electronic means. For those who are unable or who do not wish to do this, a closed donation box is located in the foyer next to the sanctuary entrance.
- Limited Bibles or loose paper materials - Bibles and most paper materials have been removed from use, with all Bible readings visible on the church screens. You are welcome to bring your own Bible.



Safety during the service

Anyone displaying the main symptoms of COVID-19 will need to return home immediately, and are advised to follow [guidance on what to do if you develop symptoms](#) at NHS Inform (or call 111 if no internet access and need clinical advice). In an emergency, 999 will be called.

In the event of a fire, please leave the building as quickly as possible.