



Update on Church and Children and Families Activities, Autumn 2020

Church

Our church building is now open for worship and funerals. Normal services will be held twice a month at 11am – see our website and facebook pages for details. As always, families are welcome at all our services although (as numbers are limited) you are best to book in advance to make sure there will be space.

We normally encourage younger children to move around the church during services, but Covid Regulations mean this is no longer possible. Instead we have space at the back of the church where they can play safely. A few toys will be available; please do not bring any toys from home. There is a separate exit so that if you wish to leave early you can easily do so.

Our online and telephone services will continue each week.

Baptism, Christening and Blessing services for any child are again possible – to find out more contact the church office or the Children and Families Work Group.

Hall

Our halls are not yet open but we are working through the process and hope to open them in due course.

Tots and Teas

We know a lot of families are feeling the loss of activities for young children and are keen to see Tots re-start. However we must work within the government guidelines. These leave us with three options:

- Limit families to those with children under 1 year and organise Tots sessions with a maximum of 10 adults (including 2 volunteers to run the sessions).
- Re-start as before with no restrictions on the age of children, in which case we are limited to a maximum of 5 adults (including 2 volunteers to run the sessions).
- Postpone re-starting until restrictions are eased.

Whichever option we choose, we are unlikely to be able to serve any food or drinks and would have to limit the range of toys available to those that are easily cleaned. Adults would have to stay at least 2m distant from each other at all times, and wear a mask unless they are seated. Limited numbers mean that places would probably have to be booked in advance, possibly on a rota to give as many people as want a chance to attend.

We are still considering which option may be best and would welcome suggestions.

In the meantime, we are still trying to post songs and stories for toddlers (and others!) on our facebook page each Tuesday at 10am. Our monthly Bookbug with Makaton sessions have resumed – thank you Sonia – again on Tuesdays at 10am, although obviously they can be accessed at a time convenient for you. We have also started outdoor Tots meetings (Tots and Trees!), meeting for a short walk and an outdoor craft activity. Up to 15 households can attend our outdoor meetings so if you'd like to be included, please get in touch.

KidZone

At the moment we have insufficient volunteers to re-start physical KidZone meetings. If you'd like to help us out, please get in touch; we'd be delighted to hear from you.

We are trying to post activities for KidZone aged children (and others!) on our facebook page each Wednesday. We also sent out a trial activity pack during the October holidays.

We hope to continue with monthly activity packs through the winter months. These could be picked up by children from the church on the way home from school on a Wednesday – we would let you know the dates

in advance. We can also post or deliver packs if required. If you'd like your child to receive a pack, please let us know so we can make sure to prepare enough for everyone.

Sunday Club

We are not able to start physical meetings of Sunday Club at present. Instead we would like to encourage you to come and take part in our church services, even if only for 10-15 minutes. Please, if you are able, do let us know you are coming so we can make sure everything is in place for you.

Family activities, songs and stories are emailed to Sunday Club families each week. If you'd like to be included in this email – even if you've never been to church or Sunday Club before – please get in touch.

Messy Church

Messy Church is organised by a different group within the church. They have some exciting plans for Christmas activities so look out for more information soon.

Christmas activities

Look out for:

- Advent Hamper – a 'help yourself'-style foodbank, available free to everyone from around 6th December until at least Christmas Eve.
- Tunnel of Light – a magical experience taking you on a journey through a winter/Christmas wonderland to the stable at Bethlehem and home again, hopefully taking some of the magic and light with you.
- Shining stars – remember the NHS rainbows from early lockdown, and how much they cheered everyone up? We hope to deliver stars for decoration to as many households in Banff and surrounding area as we can, for people to hang in their windows. If you can help us by delivering to your street or one nearby, please let us know.
- Christmas Contacts/Companions – so many people are feeling lonely and isolated at the moment. We aim to encourage as many people as possible to pop an extra Christmas card through the letterbox of a neighbour they wouldn't normally. You never know, you may even get one yourself!

Contact us

Banff Parish Church, Back Path, Banff. AB45 1AE.

Church office: 01261 818211 info@banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk

Children and Families Work Group: childrenandfamiliesbanffparishchurch@outlook.com

Facebook: Banff and King Edward Parish Churches

www.banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk