

St Magnus Church Lerwick



Thursday August 27th 2020

To my fellow members in the Body of Christ at St Magnus' church,

A Lot has certainly happened since the 18th March when I wrote to inform you all that the church door would have to remain locked due to COVID 19.

Since that time we have continued to pray together individually and in groups often on line, or via TV and radio. St Magnus reflections on "You Tube" have reached well beyond Shetland, and have been appreciated by most. We have been using "Zoom" for morning prayers on a Wednesday and the numbers have increased gradually over the time. Thursday Evening Prayers are now offered as well as Sunday morning time together at 10.45am. We have all learnt a lot.

At the vestry meeting on Monday 25th August, having been making preparations to be ready, we accepted a proposal that we formally now ask Bishop Anne to permit us to re-open St Magnus Church for public worship and be available for funerals.

I can therefore now right to inform you that the vestry have decided that **Sunday 27th September will be our re opening date.**

Enclosed with this letter is a leaflet which we hope will explain some of the things to expect when we come back to St Magnus' Church. A new Stewards team has been formed and they will be on hand to assist and help in things you may need to know or to do. They will invite you to take your seat as soon as you arrive and will also invite you to leave in a safe fashion following the service. Hand Sanitizer will be available, please bring your own face coverings if you can. Face covering are currently to be used at all time in church except for when receiving communion. Toilets are available and a steward will be on hand to direct and help. A team of cleaners are also being prepared and after each service the church will be made COVID clean and ready for the next service. The toilet will be cleaned after each use.

At the vestry meeting it was thought a good idea to continue to “Zoom” services and therefore these will be attempted from St Magnus’ itself on a Sunday. We recognise that for a number of reasons some people will choose not to come, therefore a “Zoom” option is thought helpful.

I would like to thank you all for the way things have been dealt with over the past few months. I think it is a huge credit to St Magnus’ church that we have continued to support and encourage one another in so many different ways. It has really shown what we already knew, namely that we are a great bunch of folk learning more about how to respond to God’s love for us and each other. It is a delight to be a member of St Magnus’ Church.

I look forward to greeting you again “soon” at the church door.

Sunday 27th September at 10.45

Your Rector and Priest

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil Brice". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Neil Brice