**Advice from the Advisory Panel regarding current Covid restrictions concerning Church services.**

**Updated – 13th May 2021**

1. There is a very limited relaxation in relation to singing. Congregational singing is still not possible but from 17 May it will be now permissible to have more than one singer "at the front". It is clear that the Government does not intend this to be interpreted as a return to a full-blown choir but a small number of singers will be permissible. At the time of issue of this email, the Government’s guidance on this specific point is still in the course of revision by Government. We expect it to be posted to the Government website by the end of this week and, therefore, you should refer to that guidance for greater clarity on this point, including any comment made there about appropriate transmission mitigations: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship/>
2. More generally, Government has confirmed to us that it is actively looking at the possibility of allowing congregational singing at level 1 but, as yet, there is no confirmation that that will be possible from next week for those in level 1.
3. Government has also confirmed that in the coming weeks it is undertaking a review of the requirement to physically distance in a number of indoor settings, including places of worship. As yet, however, the 2 m distancing rule remains in place.
4. We are also allowed to serve coffee after or before the service as long as distancing can be maintained. We could try having coffee this Sunday with people inside being seated well apart and the rest of us outside - if you think that is feasible.