



**STATEMENT FROM LEADERSHIP OF ALNESS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**DEFINING PHASE 3 OF OUR COVID RESPONSE**

Dear Church Family;

I am sure you will have heard the announcement from the Scottish Government that places of worship are able to return to a version of in-person services from 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

However, due to a combination of the availability of commitments to revitalise our building and premises along with the necessary sanitation, and the conditional guidelines that recommend both from the Scottish Government and Baptist Union Of Scotland that we avoid singing, raised voices, refreshments, close contact and no communion, the leadership team after prayerful consideration have come to the following conclusions:

- **Sadly, we will not be attempting weekly in-person Sunday services during phase 3 of our COVID response this summer. It would appear that up to 70% of churches are not opening Sunday services yet either.**
- **We do, however, intend to plan *occasional* in-person events, within the COVID guidelines, which we will announce online and through our website and social media platforms.**
- **In addition to this, we will continue to develop our digital presence with improved Sunday services, and midweek interactive experiences and support for adults and children.**

In the next few days Church members and adherents will be sent a survey to help us gauge how you are finding the online ministry and what in-person activities interest.

During this time, behind the scenes, the leadership team are also prayerfully discerning and evaluating, restructuring and redefining of our church's ministries, services and outreach, to help us leave lockdown over the coming months, with the ability to maximize our potential in the coming years.

It is our expectation that we will be able to move to a PHASE 4 of our COVID response, which will be a return to regular in-person services, sometime after August, but the exact pace of that will be determined at the time, based on varying conditions as we enter the autumn.

The full government guidelines for places of worship can be found

here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidanceevv-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship/>

Let's stay connected and remain in God's grace as we move slowly from lockdown to being able to gather as the family of God' people in our building once again!

With much love and In His Grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Robert'.

**Pastor Robert Adair & the leadership team of Alness Baptist Church**