19th March 2020

Dear Members of Carryduff Presbyterian Church,

Owing to the developing seriousness of the Coronavirus pandemic, I felt l should cut short my Sabbatical and returned to the manse on Tuesday 17th March.

As per guidance from the Moderator and Clerk of the General Assembly, regarding PCI's present position on regulations for all congregations under its care, there will be **no** Public Services of worship in Carryduff Presbyterian Church barring funeral services until further notice. All other Church activities are also to cease, with the exception of emergency meetings, e.g. essential Kirk Session meetings where remote alternatives will also be assessed.

I shall be limiting my pastoral visits to those who are ill and I shall ring every home I intend calling at in order to check that my visit does not pose a physical risk to anyone in that home. In addition, I shall telephone others that I am aware of who may need help of whatever sort. If anyone urgently needs pastoral care or knows of someone else who needs such care, please do not hesitate to call me on 028 90812232.

I shall be consulting our technology experts in the congregation regarding the best way to forward Biblical messages and devotional aids during the current crisis. These messages will probably start next week. You will be kept informed. Niomi McCullough will also be preparing material, to send to children and young people, and will share further details on this through social media platforms.

Please keep as safe as you can at this critical time. Above all look to the Lord as He alone can carry His people through this global crisis. *"God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.....The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress"* (Psalm 46, verses 1,2 &7)

Yours in His loving care,

Alistair Smyth