

17.3.2020



Dear Brothers and Sisters.

We are living in unprecedented times and we are cast on God for His wisdom, for His care and protection.

Having considered the rapidly developing CoVid19 pandemic, government advice issued on 16th March 2020, it is with heavy hearts, but with assurance of God's guidance, that we believe it wise to suspend all activities at the Welcome Church for the foreseeable future.

What does this mean?

This will have a significant impact on our weekly routine and spiritual lives, however it is for our protection and the protection of our fellow men that we are taking these steps.

Some of you may need to self-isolate on the basis of the government guidelines, or through illness. This isolation may be challenging to endure and we want to ensure you have as much support through this period as we can provide.

In response today's government guidance, John & Barbara Baigent and Andrew & Rosemary Kingston have already taken this significant step to self isolate.

What will we do to continue worshipping God and serving Him?

The Elders are keen to ensure that you are continually fed and will be providing the following:

A weekly message:

- A selection of worship songs, a recommended sermon and a prayer link
- Links to Welcome sermons
- Links to recommend podcasts
- Links to worship music

What support do we have in place for you?

There are a number of teams in place to support you during these times

- The Elders – elders@thewelcomechurch.org.uk
- Pastoral Care team – care@thewelcomechurch.org.uk
- MTL team
- Home groups
- The prayer team - prayer@thewelcomechurch.org.uk

We recognise that you may have practical, emotional and spiritual support during this period.

Therefore we recommend that you take the following steps should you need support:

- Firstly, contact your home group leader
- If this is not possible, or you are not in a home group contact the pastoral care team, or
- Contact an MTL, or
- Contact the Elders

What can you do?

During this time, there are also things you can do.

- Pray – pray for calm, pray for peace, pray for wisdom, pray for our authorities and medical teams, pray for everyone who attends Welcome, and above all that God will surround us with His protection and use this situation to bring souls to Jesus.

- Shine for Jesus – this is a fantastic opportunity where, as we are led, we can serve our fellow men and show them the love of Jesus.
- Be creative – think about ways you can help those in isolation – whether by telephone, by email, being ready to collect packages or shopping. If you can help in practical ways, please contact those listed above.

Habakkuk 3: 16c-19

Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble
to come upon people who invade us.

Habakkuk Rejoices in the Lord

17 Though the fig tree should not blossom,
nor fruit be on the vines,
the produce of the olive fail
and the fields yield no food,
the flock be cut off from the fold
and there be no herd in the stalls,

18 yet I will rejoice in the Lord;
I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

19 God, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the deer's;
he makes me tread on my high places.

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.

In conclusion, this decision and recommendations to suspend all activities has not been taken lightly. However, it is for the safety and protection of all our church family, and to be subject to the authorities that we have taken this difficult decision, however we will continuously have it under review as the situation develops.

Finally, we would like to express our love for each one of you. You are precious to our Lord and Saviour and to us. Let us therefore eagerly look forward to meeting again as soon as possible....because we have the hope of our Lord's immanent return in our hearts.

God bless you,
The Elders