



## KINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

### Corona Virus Update #2

**22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020**

This week continues to be a turbulent and ever-changing week with the Government giving guidance and imposing restrictions as they fight to stem the spread of the Covid19 Corona virus. This is update number 2 which contains the same general information but with changes to note made in **red**.

The Elders and leadership team have been monitoring the situation all week with many conversations about how we move forward as a fellowship.

Taking guidance from the Baptist Union, NHS, Government authorities and also taking note of how other religious organisations are responding to the situation, we wanted to update you with the decisions that have been made by the Trustees (this information is current as of today and will be subject to change based on further advice from the relevant authorities and organisations as required).

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**Sunday Morning Services:**

**As notified previously, Sunday morning services have been suspended.**

**Due to the increasing recommendations for social distancing, we will not be opening the Church for people to come to Church and spend time in prayer.**

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**Wednesday Day of Prayer:**

**All prayer meetings on Wednesdays are currently suspended.**

**As per Sunday mornings, the Church will not be open for people to pray.**

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**Other activities in Church:**

All activities are suspended for the time being. This includes:-

Accelerate, Youth, Worship practice, Choir, Connect, house groups, Childminders, Works of Heart, Arise & Shine plus any others not listed.

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**Church AGM:**

The AGM scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> April has been cancelled. The next Church meeting after that will be the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 and the rescheduled AGM will be part of this meeting.

There are two Deacons and two Elders positions up for re-election (Vicky, Matt, Keith and Ian) and all have agreed to continue in their positions until the July meeting when we pray we can hold the AGM.

**Note: Any outstanding AGM reports still need to be submitted to Tricia ASAP please.**

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**Communications:**

In order to keep the fellowship updated with Church life then the following will be implemented:-

**Family Matters:**

The monthly Family Matters will still be produced and be distributed via ChurchSuite and mailed to those without access to ChurchSuite.

**Clearly this will not contain the usual diary items, but it is important to try and maintain a degree of “normality” to Church life in how and what we communicate.**

**Facebook:**

A KBC Facebook page has been setup where we will post items of interest to the fellowship (and any others who are interested). We are currently planning several things to go onto the page to keep it up to date, fresh and relevant – video messages from the leadership with updates, encouraging messages, bible verses, news and information etc.

If you have anything you feel would be appropriate to post onto the page, please send them to Dawn Addams who will put them on the page. Please remember that anything posted has to comply with the recommendations for posting on Social Media and must be GDPR compliant. (Who will be responsible for managing this as false info is still in circulation)

**WhatsApp Prayer Line:**

This is a well-established method of communicating pastoral requirements. Please remember this is not a place for dialogue between people but for putting requests and updates of previous prayer requests.

Should the numbers of the fellowship become infected then this will be an important way of letting people know of the most recent urgent prayer requests.

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### **Other Technologies:**

We are investigating options to be able to offer other methods of communication e.g. streaming any future prayer meetings or services (when we can meet again) for the benefit of those who may be still isolated and housebound.

This could include video streaming of material such as sermons or other media (subject to copyright permissions). Virtual prayer fellowship or meetings etc. We will provide more details as soon as possible.

### **Streaming of Services:**

As we investigate the options available, we are aware of some Churches who have already got the provision to stream services. There are some issues with regard to copyright (eg in terms of streaming worship) we have to consider and given the restrictions on meetings, we are not sure at this time what content these Churches are considering to stream.

However, should you be self-isolating and/or wish to watch a live stream then the following may prove useful to be an option to visit (online).

**St James Road, Watford:** Service will start at 10am on Sundays. Interactive via facebook comments (those with an account) and via text message for those who do not.

Link: [https://www.facebook.com/sjrbcwatford/?hc\\_location=ufi](https://www.facebook.com/sjrbcwatford/?hc_location=ufi)

**Croxley Green:** They are posting a short worship, prayer and sermon video later this week ready for Sunday on their website Facebook and YouTube. Link: <https://www.facebook.com/croxleygreenbaptist/>

**Christ The King Milton Keynes:** Live streaming a message and prayers on Sundays via Facebook.

Link: [www.facebook.com/CtKKentsHill](http://www.facebook.com/CtKKentsHill)

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**Biggleswade BC:** Streaming on Facebook Live, find their Facebook page and join in.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/BiggleswadeBaptistChurch/>

**Central Baptist Luton:** From 10:45 on Sunday, examples of past services on already on their Facebook page.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/lutonbaptist/>

**Hillsong Church, London:** You can join them live online at 11am.

Link: [www.hillsong.co.uk/onlineservice](http://www.hillsong.co.uk/onlineservice) and <https://www.youtube.com/user/HillsongChurchLondon>

**Letchworth Garden City Church (LGCC):**

Link: <https://lgcc.churchonline.org/>

We are all trying to find new ways to keep connections, to enable fellowship, even to grow together at this time of uncertainty, so if you have any innovative ideas please do share.

**This is now a focus area for us to explore ways we can ensure we can still have fellowship in safety. We are looking for the best technology platform which is easiest for to use.**

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**General Hygiene Requirements:**

**TidyTime:**

We have been advised that the company that cleans the Church every Monday has suspended all its cleaning activities.

This means that there is an increased need for anyone entering the Church to be extra vigilant with their personal hygiene routines - ensuring regular hand washing with soap and/or hand cleanser, wiping of door handles and surfaces etc must be undertaken.

We would also appreciate that checks are done to ensure that waste bins in the kitchen and toilets are emptied to the main bins outside before leaving the building.

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**Pastoral Care:** Please ensure that if you have any pastoral responsibilities for others in the fellowship, that you maintain your contact with them to check they are ok – especially if they fall into the defined high risk categories and / or are self-isolating through their own or household member infection.

Please remember that a quick phone call is all it takes to break the isolation for anyone who cannot engage in their usual way with the people they know and love.

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**Emergency Contact:** The Elders are currently working on a process to allow 24/7 access to leadership for anyone requiring help and support (**within the fellowship only – see outreach below**). They will provide the coordination to other members of the fellowship who have offered and can provide support – prayer, shopping, collecting medicines, dog walking etc etc.

There will be a published mobile phone number with guidelines as how to use the “service” – the guidelines and rotas etc will be produced shortly.

In the short term, please contact anyone in your usual “friendship” circle for support – friends, family, neighbours etc as long as they are able and not self-isolating themselves.

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**Outreach:** There are discussions taking place between the representatives of Churches Together on Tuesday 24th March. The KBC representatives will be working to provide joint initiatives to serve our community by pooling resources and ideas. This will be an opportunity to share the love and fellowship of Jesus to our community at a time when they need it even more than usual.

We will advise what the outcome of those conversations are. What is important that there is a united effort to support our community to show our unity in Christ rather than a disjointed one.

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Finally we would like to thank you for your support so far during this time and your understanding of some of the difficult decisions we have had to make – the welfare and wellbeing of the fellowship is of paramount importance and we have to consider that along with the desire to meet with the Lord and in fellowship.

Through prayer and with these changes we will come through this difficult time and we pray that we can see Gods hand upon people’s lives.

Please pray for family, friends, neighbours, colleagues young and old that they have peace in their hearts and minds and that they will feel His presence at this time.

In such times it is always good to look at the Bible for words of comfort and support.

**Ezra 10 vs 4:** "Rise up take courage and do it".

**1 Thessalonians 5 vs 11:** "Encourage one another and build each other up".

**Joshua 1 vs 5:** "You've got someone standing beside you that is stronger than the one standing against you".

**Luke 1 vs 37:** "Faith – it doesn't make things easy, but it makes them possible".

God Bless you at this time.

Blessings in Christ.

**The Elders, Trustees and Leadership Team.**