

Kingswood Baptist Church,
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Registered Charity: 1131656

Senior Minister: Stuart Elmes
Associate Minister: Nick Braithwaite

17th March 2020

To the Church Family at KBC,

As mentioned on Sunday, we met as a Leadership Team on Monday night to discuss our ongoing response to coronavirus as a church. At this meeting **we made the decision to suspend all KBC gatherings and meetings until further notice** (our planning extends to the end of April, but this could change). This was an incredibly hard decision to make and not one which was taken lightly but was in response to the Prime Minister's advice urging the public to avoid any non-essential contact on Monday evening. This morning (Tuesday), we have received the updated guidance from the Baptist Union that Sunday services should not take place, and which urged churches to move to online meetings wherever possible.

These are challenging times but with every challenge there is always an opportunity. The opportunity to *be family* and show our love for one another in action by caring for one another, as we have been reflecting on this year. The opportunity to be salt and light to our immediate neighbours and serve them where possible. The opportunity to get down on our knees and pray for our town, nation and His creation. The Lord is good and in the midst of this uncertainty we have the opportunity, as His family, to show His goodness in our care and support of one another.

Together, the Leadership Team, are working at ensuring we respond to the current situation as best as possible. Further information is grouped under the headings below.

Sunday Services

We will continue to provide a sermon message each week and provide the 'Unpacking the Preach' resource for people to use for further reflection. This will be sent out electronically and hard copies will be distributed to those not on email who request them.

This week the message will be uploaded to the website and we are working towards live streaming from next week which means you will be able to join in for a time of prayer and the sermon.

Sunday's will undoubtedly 'feel' different but perhaps it could be an opportunity for you to prayer walk in your community and intercede for your community.

Pastoral Care

At KBC the primary place of pastoral care takes place through the Discipleship Groups. If you are in a group this will be the main contact for pastoral support and care, via text and telephone. For those who are not in a Discipleship Group please feel free to contact myself, Nick, or Clare Hogg should you require any support.

Communication

We will be updating the KBC website in due course and would ask you to refer to this to keep up to date with changes. We will also utilise email to keep you abreast of changes. The Sunday messages will have other information that may be pertinent and there will be a mid-week message from myself as well.

Attached to this letter is also a list of useful contacts and resources that may be of interest and use.

Where we need your help

As I mentioned above this is a great opportunity to care for one another and to help. Firstly, one of the primary areas we need help is having a large group of people who would be willing to contact those who are not connected with a Discipleship Group to support and encourage them. It would not be an onerous task and could just be a quick phone call, text or email. Our aim is to ensure that at this time no one missed and not supported.

Secondly, and equally important, if you do need support and have not been contacted, **please get in touch with myself, Nick or Clare Hogg**, so that we can provide the support we can.

Thirdly, be proactive in demonstrating support and care. Scripture points us in this direction by exhorting us to love one another deeply (1 Peter 4:8) and do good for one another (Galatians 6:10). What new and creative ways could you live this out at this time?

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to speak to myself or Nick or those on the Leadership Team.

Every blessing!
Stu

Contact details and sources of help

Kingswood Baptist Church

Key names and phone numbers: Stu (07968 015351), Nick (07747 602933) Clare Hogg (07989 928827)

Listen online: <https://kingswoodbaptistchurch.co.uk/sermons/>

Prayer chain number: 07948 721772

Phone contacts:

UCB Prayerline - Volunteers available to pray with you and bring God into the situation you are facing.

Open: 9am – 10pm, Mon – Fri; 10:30am – 8pm, Sat

Tel: 01782 36 3000 or email prayer requests through their website (www.ucb.co.uk/pray)

Premier Lifeline - Being there at the end of the phone line. A place where faith and compassion meet.

Open: 9am – midnight every day

Tel: 0300 111 0101

Living Light Prayer line - They will listen and support you as you work towards your own solutions or you simply off-load. Always willing to pray with you and for you.

Open: 9am – 5pm, Mon – Friday

Tel: 01277 367 118

The Silver Line - Free, confidential helpline providing information, friendship and advice to older people

Open: 24hrs a day, 365 days a year

Tel: 0800 4 70 80 90

Age UK - Free, confidential advice line.

Open: 8am – 7pm, 365 days a year

Tel: 0800 678 1602

The Samaritans - If you need someone to talk to, we listen. We won't judge or tell you what to do.

Open: 24 hours a day, 365 days a year

Tel: 116 123 Email: jo@samaritans.org (24 hr response time)

Listen to:

UCB 1 and 2

www.ucb.co.uk/listen

Available on digital radio, UCB player app, internet or smart speaker

Premier Christian Radio

Available on digital radio, internet, MW 1305, 1332, 1413, 1566, freeview 725 and apps

Christian Radio

www.christianradio.com