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### Letters to the Church - 1st April 2020

To all the brothers and sisters at KBC

One of the consistent messages that you will be hearing from me over the next few months is #KeepConnected. I remember reading some research a while back and the various authors were asking the question, 'we are more connected than we have ever been, yet are we more alone?' Most of the articles went on to say, 'yes, we are, and social media is not helping'. If that was the case before COVID19 then how much more important is it for us to stay connected now in an intentional way. Here is a simple truth: social distancing ≠ relational distancing. In fact, I would argue it presents us with the excuse (if you need one), motivation and blessing to reach out and stay connected.

Stay connected to to the Father, through the Son with the help and power of the Spirit. As my friend Pastor Tapi encouraged his congregation the other day, "Many of us are being presented with a unique opportunity of having more free time on our hands. At the end of it, when things return to a new normal, will we look back with regret thinking, I wasted the time I could have invested in my relationship with Jesus or will we look back stronger, more full of hope and joy, knowing we used the time well and are stronger in our faith as a result". John 15 is a wonderful encouragement in this direction, perhaps start there meditating on Jesus words. Download Andrew Murray's classic book *The True Vine* (a 30 day devotional) and meditate on what it means to abide in Christ - to state connected.

Stay connected to one another. Make a list of people from ChurchSuite, not only the ones you know but a few you don't and make a decision to contact them from time to time. It can be by phone, FaceTime if like me you prefer to see people's faces, WhatsApp, text and so on. The means are there, and we are motivated by the Word of God which encourages us to build one another up (1 Thessalonians 5:11), to encourage one another daily (Hebrews 3:13) and bear one another burdens (Galatians 6:2). Perhaps the burden you may carry for someone today when you call, will be the burden of their loneliness.

Stay connected to church. I cannot tell you how thrilled I was on Sunday to see so many people had joined for the morning service via Zoom. There were 76 log-ins with the two of the oldest people in our church family being among them (88 & 84 years old) connecting via the telephone dial in. As one of the regional ministers encouraged a week or so ago, **'Well done for trying something new!'** I also plan to be trying some new stuff, working with video and other means to help us keep connected, I am no technophobe, but it is still a steep learning curve! So, remember to keep up to date with the upcoming services and

prayer meetings that we will be having via the Zoom platform and keep watch for new things we will be trying.

Perhaps a couple of questions might spur on some practical action. How are you going to connect with God this week? Who are you going to connect with from the church family this week? When are you going to connect with the church family at one of the meetings?

Hopefully the message is clear this week [#KeepConnected](#)

May His grace and peace be with you.

With much love in Christ

Stu

[#KeepTrusting](#) [#KeepConnected](#) [#Call4Support](#)

### **Upcoming events on Zoom**

2nd April - Prayer Meeting - 7.45pm

5th April - Sunday Morning Service - 10.30am

(we will open the room at 10am for people to gather to chat and leave it open after the service for people to chat as well)

9th April - Maundy Thursday Communion - 7.45pm (bring your own bread and wine)

10th April - Good Friday Service - 10am

12th April - Easter Sunday Morning Service

### **A reminder of the log in details, should you need them:**

<https://zoom.us>

Meeting ID: 987 138 2512

### **Using a landline**

You can use one of the teleconferencing numbers below and when instructed enter the meeting ID, followed by #. Then just press # to join the meeting.

0203 481 5237

0203 481 5240

0208 080 6591

0208 080 6592