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Letters to the Church during COVID-19: 15 July 2020

To the brothers and sisters at KBC,

I hope you are well and keeping safe. I wanted to take the opportunity this morning to keep you up to date with our plan to re-open KBC for Sunday worship and what this will look like to begin with. As you may well know, the government announced that places of worship can re-open from the 4th July and issued detailed guidance about how those gatherings should be conducted (details of this guidance can be found online). The guidance includes the usual information about social distancing, hygiene, cleaning etc but also further information about the length of our gatherings, service of food and beverages, singing etc.

In light of the guidance, the leadership team have taken the decision to resume a Sunday Service from the 6th September 2020. Anticipating that many people will still be shielding and unable to attend the service, our emphasis will remain on live streaming the service and those who wish to attend in person will be a bit like a 'live studio audience'. This is, of course, a temporary measure and moving forward we will be seeking to implement the decision taken by the church meeting to move to two morning services and an evening meeting. I am sure you will have many questions at this point, so let me see if I can answer a few.

What shape will the service take?

The service will essentially be the same as we are currently offering over Zoom on a Sunday as the guidance does not allow singing, serving of tea/coffee and encourages churches to keep services short. To begin with there will be no children's work or creche facility and children will need to stay with their parents in the service. The service will start at 10.30, although this will change as we seek to implement moving to two morning services.

What can I expect when I arrive?

A warm welcome and 'virtual' hug, high five or handshake, to begin with. Then an expectation to help us keep everyone safe by following the various regulations: use the hand sanitiser provided, maintain social distancing, follow the one way system in and out of church, only use the toilets if you have to. Do not attend if you feel poorly and notify us if you begin to feel unwell or develop COVID19 symptoms after attending a service.

Do I need to register to attend?

There will be limited spaces available so you will need to register to attend the service and details of how to do this will be circulated in due course.

Can I be of help?

Yes please! In order to re-open we will need a team of able people to help serve as stewards and cleaners, both during the service and after the service. There is also still a question before each of us, which I have been asking over the last few weeks: how will I serve the church family when we start up, what one thing can I do and do well to serve God and His family? And lastly, I would also encourage you to continue to pray for the church and encourage one another.

What about other KBC activities?

All other KBC activities such as children's work, Jubilees, the new small groups that were due to be launched in September etc are still on hold at the moment. Although we will still be meeting for Unpack the Preach and Prayer Evenings on Zoom on Thursday evenings. The only activity that continues is Project 58:7, which provide meals for the homeless and those in need, led by Tim Nicklin and his team.

How long will these current arrangements last?

It is impossible to say, as the situation is very fluid and there is a lot of uncertainty around how things may progress. However, we will be seeking to adapt and adjust to the changes as they arise. It is my prayer that, in time, we will begin to implement decisions taken by the church meeting, start the new small groups, be able to meet more freely and regularly and continue to serve the community through our various activities.

If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself or one of the Elders. May you continue to grow in grace and may His Spirit strengthen you in all things.

Grace be with you brothers and sisters,

Stu

#KeepTrusting #KeepConnected #Call4Support

Notices and Upcoming events on Zoom:

Tonight: GEMS (ladies) prayer evening from 7:30pm.

Thursday: Unpack the Preach discussion from 7:45pm.

Sunday: 10:30am, Sunday Morning Service **including communion** (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).

KBC YouTube channel: Here you will find our new daily mini devotional series 'Therefore..' and back copies of Stu's daily devotional series 'You are....' and our sermons each week. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0IqZEJkxDYGSQCw6onJw/featured>

Resources: Do not forget to check out our resources page on our website, which is constantly being updated, including resources for families and activities for children and youth: <https://kingswoodbaptistchurch.co.uk/resources/>