

Six Ways Baptist Church response to the impact of Covid-19

Hi everyone

These times we find ourselves in are not only bewildering, but also unsettling. We are all trying to make sense of what is happening and how we can get through.

As a church, the community of believers, at Six Ways we are trying to work out what might be the best ways to keep all people safe, to play our part in the local and wider community effort and to be honouring to God in all this.

The situation is changing all the time, but for now, here are some definite things as well as some thoughts on how we move forward. We are looking at ways that we can keep in touch with each other and continue to feel that we are part of the Body of Christ, whilst keeping everybody as safe as possible.

We have been advised by the Government and the Baptist Union to suspend all gatherings. This applies to everything that meets on our premises. It includes Sunday services. Whilst we might not feel happy about this, we do need to comply with this advice.

Midweek Activities

Therefore, all midweek groups and activities are suspended, with the exception of Erdington Foodbank (Thursdays 12-2) and Job Club (Wednesdays 10-12); both of which provide a much needed point of contact and service for people in our community who need support, especially now.

Sunday Service

We will not be meeting for Sunday services as of this Sunday 22nd March.

Some thoughts on how we might meet the challenges of still keeping in touch with each other and continuing to feel that we are part of the Body of Christ:-

- the church will be open for prayer on Sundays from 11-12 and on Tuesdays 12-1. People can come if they wish and pray quietly on their own. We will need to observe space between each other and hygiene etc. There is no expectation or pressure on anyone else to feel they have to be there.
- to use YouTube, Facebook/WhatsApp and podcasts to be able to communicate messages and devotionals for those who use these media.
- to email and post out a revised style of news sheet with a weekly Bible-based message and prayers/reflections.

Looking after each other

I am really encouraged that as various people have raised already, this is a time when we make extra sure that nobody in the church community is left out, forgotten or goes without.

We aim for either a Deacon or myself to be in touch with you in order to say hello and check you are OK.

We aim to keep in touch and to provide for those who are self-isolating or unwell, practical support like bringing shopping, food, medication as well as simply a phone or text conversation.

Community role

As things develop, there are all sorts of initiatives taking shape around organising food supply and delivery for people who are vulnerable and/or confined to their home. I am keen for us to be part of these ways of being “salt and light”. I will keep you posted, but also do let me know if you might like to help in this or any other aspect of us supporting one another in this time of crisis.

So you don't miss out, please, if you have an email address, would you let me have it so that I can add you to our mailing list for the weekly news sheet and monthly magazine?

It is very important that we try and do all that we can to be a community that supports and encourages each other and that we remember that God is sovereign and is faithful to us. God will see us through these challenges.

God bless.

Gerard

19 March 2020