



KINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

Corona Virus Update

26th October 2020

The Elders and leadership team continue to closely monitor the situation regarding the Corona virus and continue to meet regularly to plan and implement how we move forward as a fellowship.

Given the recent changes in guidance from the Government, the fact that some local Churches have started to meet again in their buildings and taking note of how other religious organisations are responding to the latest situation, we wanted to update you with the latest 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).

Sunday Morning Services:

Sunday morning services **in** Church continue to be suspended for the time being.

The current decision remains that in the **short term**, we will **not** be opening the Church for people to come to Church and spend time in prayer or worship.

However, the “return to Church” team are looking at what needs to be implemented in the Church in terms of procedures, equipment etc to allow us to return to use the building as soon as practicable. Additional necessary precautions have been installed (Hand sanitisers, one-way system, policies & procedures, Track and Trace, etc) to ensure your safety when the Church is reopened - currently the target date is **provisionally** being planned for the end of December, but is subject to the changing levels of infections and no local or national guidelines and restrictions being imposed.

We continue to meet on Zoom at 10:30 every Sunday morning where we meet as a fellowship, share worship, Communion and listen to Gods word.

Please click on the link below to join us:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8269783610?pwd=bEZndWdTNWQwdTRWk3M5dGJYa1B3dz09>

The meeting details are:-

Meeting ID: 826 978 3610

Passcode: 730521

Once the Church reopens for services, we will continue to stream services for those unable to attend. (This may be Zoom or another suitable platform – there are many that are currently being evaluated.)

Wednesday Day of Prayer:

All prayer meetings on Wednesdays in Church remain **currently suspended**.

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

We are still holding our Virtual prayer meetings at 10:00 – 11:00 and 19:30 – 20:30 using the same Zoom meeting details as for Sunday morning and shown above.

Other activities in Church:

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

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

Groups which **are** meeting via Zoom (details as above) are:

Accelerate: Tuesday 18:00 – 18:45

Coffee & Chat^(*): Tuesday 19:00 – 20:00 &
Thursday 14:00 – 15:00

(*) This is an informal and relaxed time for people to meet and have a catch up in the comfort and safety of their own homes.

Works Of Heart: Following the usual routine of the first Monday of the month (expect Bank Holidays etc) 20:00 – 22:00.

Men's & Ladies Breakfast:

On the relevant Saturdays from 08:30- 09:30. Please see the **What's on / Diary of Events** Section of the Web site (<http://www.kingsbaptistchurch.co.uk/diary.php>) to find when the next meeting is being held. Bring yourselves and have your breakfast of choice to hand and enjoy the fellowship.

Communications:

In order to keep the fellowship updated with Church life then the following has been implemented:-

Family Matters:

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

Facebook:

The KBC Facebook page continues to have many visits and comments with many of the fellowship posting items of interest.

Contributions to the page are warmly welcomed to keep the page up to date, fresh and relevant.

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** and **Copyright** compliant.

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

Other Technologies:

Like a lot of Churches, we are using Zoom as the platform to conduct our meetings virtually. The audio from the Sunday morning service is also posted to the Church website at **Resource / Sermon Downloads** (<http://www.kingsbaptistchurch.co.uk/sermons.php>) to provide the facility for people to (re)listen to the Word.

Future Streaming of Services:

As mentioned previously, we are investigating 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) which we have to consider and given the restrictions on meetings, we are investigating the best method of engaging with people attending online.

However, as well as attending our activities / services, 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

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

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 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 maintain connections, to enable fellowship, even to grow together at this time of uncertainty, so if you have any innovative ideas please do share them with us.

This is a key 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 us to use.

General Hygiene Requirements:

TidyTime:

TidyTime are performing regular but limited cleaning of the Church building to keep on top of the cleanliness of the building.

At the recent Church meeting, we agreed the policy which we should follow when using the building. This document details the requirements of anyone who enter the Church buildings.

This includes (and is not limited to):-

People should scan the NHS QR code on their mobile device **and** log their name and date time of arrival and departure as part of the Governments Track and Trace scheme. Wearing of face masks at all times when in the building. No food or drinks to be prepared in the building etc. If in any doubt, please consult the policy, ask one of the Trustees or one of the Leadership team.

Additional equipment has been installed into the building such as Hygiene stations containing AntiBac wipes and Gels etc. Hand Sanitisers, signage advising of the one-way system and 2m guidance limits etc.

Anyone entering the Church is required to follow these instructions at all times and are expected to continue 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 which 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.

Please note: There is an obvious increase in the use of wipes (hand wipes, surface wipes etc which are similar in texture to babywipes.) Please throw them away in the provided bins and **NOT** down the toilets as it **will** block them. Our disabled toilet uses a macerator to break down matter in the pipes – these wipes **jam** the mechanism and causes **flooding** to the toilet and corridor areas.

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.

Emergency Contact:

The Elders have implemented an “Out of Hours” phone system 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 is a published mobile phone number See Family Matters @ <http://www.kingsbaptistchurch.co.uk/family-matters.php>) with guidelines as how to use the “service” – the guidelines and rotas etc have been published to the Trustees who manage the phone on a rota basis.

Messages left on the Church Office Answering Machine will be notified to a Trustee and picked up promptly.

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.

Outreach:

At the meeting of representatives of Churches Together held on Tuesday 24th March. The KBC representatives pledged to support the joint initiatives put in place to serve our community by pooling resources and ideas. This is an ideal opportunity to share the love and fellowship of Jesus to our community at a time when they need it even more than usual. Please let one of the Trustees know if you feel you would like to assist in support this or The Need Project – both of which are providing a vital and much needed service to the needy people in our community.

We are pleased to be able to be a part of this united effort to support our community to show our unity in Christ rather than a disjointed one.

Church Fabric

As described, there have been many changes made within the Church to facilitate the requirements to enable us to meet again in the building taking into account the current guidelines and restrictions. This naturally will make the Church feel “different” to what we are used to – the use of masks, standing behind screens, one-way systems etc.

However, whilst the building has been unused, we have taken the opportunity to make improvements to the fabric of the building – new lighting, notice boards, improved PA area (to handle the new technical requirements), refresh of paintwork etc. We hope that when you next come into the building, you will be able to notice the differences. We hope you feel that the Church has a new warm and vibrant feel to it even with the “items” placed to keep us all safe.

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.

We would also like to say a massive thank you to the many people who have been working tirelessly in the background, supporting the fellowship, the community and putting hours of effort into ensuring the Church is a safe and welcoming place to come back to.

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.