



27<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Friends,

At this time of social isolation, we as a church fully support all that the government is seeking to do and our prayers are with the NHS, the government and all who are affected at this time.

As a church we have had to and will continue to need to review our priorities. We want to ensure ongoing support for all, enable worship and "gatherings" as far as possible and to keep prayer and discipleship at the heart of all we are doing.

To this end our church programme for the next few weeks will look like this:

- a. Sunday worship @10.30am live stream
- b. Sunday prayer and reflection at 6pm – Zoom
- c. Tuesday Prayer meeting or leadership team meeting – Zoom
- d. Tuesday 'Journey' by Skype
- e. Virtual Meeting Place gathering, Wednesday – by Zoom
- f. Wednesday at RBC – Zoom
- g. Thursday morning prayer and study group – Zoom
- h. Weekly youth "gathering" by zoom (Times as announced)
- i. Weekly Sunday school material
- j. Regular children's ideas post

We will also try and continue to:

- a. Maintain an office presence during the mornings (no visitors but receiving phone calls)
- b. Help Line: Running weekdays (9.30am-1pm)
- c. Food bank: Drop off in the mornings 9.30am-1pm by ringing the doorbell and leaving the donations by the door. We will also continue to act as a collection point.
- d. Blood donors: We are continuing to welcome the blood donors as users of the building but staffing it with low risk staff who do not need to use public transport.
- e. Pastoral care by phone: We are trying to keep in touch with everyone, and the leadership of the church are busy calling people. If you have not had a call, do get in touch with us, and we will look at why that has not happened, maybe our records are out of date, or we have made a mistake, both totally possible at this time.
- f. Pastoral care for young people by Zoom.
- g. Addressing specific pastoral needs.

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Unless it is in this list, the meeting you are thinking about is cancelled, that includes the church meeting that was due to take place on 1 April. Please though do continue to contact each other, pray for one another and be mindful of those who are alone at this difficult time.

### **RBC staff**

As you can imagine, we are having to make decisions regarding the wellbeing of the staff and the church going forward. We are seeking to do this in line with the government's advice and direction. We are also grateful for some of the support that the government is giving at this difficult time.

We have therefore taken the difficult decision, using the government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme that was recently introduced, to designate as furloughed workers, Alison, Dana, Jenny and Jan. This means they will not be working during this crisis but will be retained as staff for the church with financial help to pay them coming from the government. This is for varying operational and personal reasons. Please pray for them at this time as I am sure they will appreciate messages of love and support. Tony, Gill and Steve R are also affected by the nature of their role and we are looking at how we can support them going forward.

Ruth will continue working as normal and Hannah will be working from home. Ian and Vikki will also continue to work as normal as possible, whilst keeping their distance from people.

I hope that this helps you to feel in touch. Do keep in touch and join us online when you are able.

When we were praying as a leadership team this week using Zoom, we reminded ourselves of the words from Lamentations 3:22-26

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,  
for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.

I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion;  
therefore I will wait for him."

The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him,  
to the one who seeks him;  
it is good to wait quietly  
for the salvation of the Lord.

Please continue to pray for the church going forward.

Yours in Christ,

The Leadership Team

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