



St John's Community Church

www.stjohnscommunitychurch.org.uk

  @SJCChurch  01543 670078



Tuesday 17th March 2020

Update - Church, Community, & Coronavirus

Thank you all very much for your flexibility, kindness, support & prayers as we face this developing situation. It's an unprecedented & incredibly challenging time for us all, & yet already there are numerous signs of our church & community pulling together, which is great to see.

Our Church Building - Groups & Services

Under guidance from the Government & the Church of England, **all of our church services have now stopped** for the foreseeable future. Whilst this is incredibly sad, we need to do all we can to limit the impact of the virus, & this means our gatherings are on hold for now. Whilst some churches are remaining open for people to come for quiet prayer & reflection, **we won't be opening our doors for this** as we feel it will be impossible to ensure the building remains sufficiently hygienic (door handles, toilets, chairs etc), as the current indication is that the virus can remain on surfaces for many hours.

In addition, due to the Government's latest advice to avoid all 'non-essential' social gatherings, sadly **all midweek groups have ceased to meet**, which includes both those run by folks from our community (Slimming World, Pilates, Burntwood Live At Home, Diddi Dance etc), as well as the groups we oversee as a church: Drop Inn, Bereavement Help Point, F'n'F, Little Friends, YPC etc.

Similarly, **all house groups which meet both in the church & in people's homes have been stopped**, as again, we feel that encouraging social interaction in person at this time would be unwise.

We've done our best to contact all regular users directly, but do please help us by spreading the word - thank you.

Getting In Touch - Please Do So!

Marie, our parish administrator, will still be answering office calls & emails, & any donations for the Foodbank can still be dropped off by arranging a time with us in advance, but it may be more convenient to leave items in the Foodbank basket in Morrison's - thank you.

Message: Via our [Church Facebook](#) page
Email: info@stjohnscommunitychurch.org.uk
Phone: Church Office - 01543 670708
Mobile: Matt Wallace (Vicar) - 07855 960179

Church & Community Life Going Forward...

In response to our changing circumstances, we're working hard to put the following in place:

Pastoral Care:

Our **House Groups** are a great way for people to offer support to one another, & although not meeting in person, it's been lovely to see this care already kicking into gear via WhatsApp groups, phone calls & practical help. The **Prayer Chain** is a good way to receive & share prayer needs - do please sign up by texting **07745 741123** with your name. In the coming days we'll be establishing a wider **Pastoral Care Team** who will be ringing all church members on a regular basis to offer prayer, support, & practical help if needed. We'll also be delivering updated printed **Church Directories** to all church members so folks can stay in touch directly. We're grateful as well to the numerous people who have offered time or transport to help those in need, & we'll be taking up these offers in due course - thank you.

Community Care:

It's fantastic to see our community pulling together in practical ways. On top of what's available via the [Foodbank](#), as a church we're partnering with both **Ash & Nikki** from [The Victoria](#) on Ironstone Rd & **Angela** at [Kean Styles](#) at Sankey's Corner to ensure those in need can access food & supplies. If you or those known to you are in need, **please get in touch** & together we'll do our best to help.

Spiritual Food:

Starting from this Sunday, we'll be putting together a weekly resource on our [website](#) & [Facebook](#) (hopefully YouTube too) with **songs, prayers, reflections & encouragement**. We may not be able to worship together in person, but the hope is we can do so together in a virtual way, so watch this space for more details...

Above All...

In all of this, despite the likelihood of ill-health, social distancing & physical isolation, **let's keep praying to our loving God for his strength, wisdom, protection & inspiration** as we seek to stay well, & support those around us. Although it's an anxious, even scary, time, the peace & love of God can overcome all fear, & in the midst of darkness, **his light of love** is already shining in our community & beyond. Let's take heart - we're not alone: **we have God & each other** as we journey on together.