

Dear Church Family,

Please feel free to share this email.

**Father God is still sovereign!**  
**Jesus Christ is still Lord!**  
**Holy Spirit is still with us!**

In Isaiah chapter 6:1-8 We see Isaiah on his knees. For the people of God everything had changed. A time of stability had drawn to a close, the faithful and good King Uzziah has died and foreign armies stood at the gates. Isaiah is to be found in the Temple (in the New Testament, Paul tell us we are the Temple) and there, in that place of uncertainty, fear and devotion, Isaiah has one of the Old Testament's most beautiful and awesome revelations of Almighty God. He reveals Himself to be on the throne. He reveals Himself as Holy and unchanging. He shows us that He is in control of everything and is ready to show Himself to all who seek Him.

**He wants to reveal Himself to you** in new and powerful ways and bring his peace and purpose in these days.

In the fast-changing and challenging situation that we are in, it is crucial for us to remember that. He is the focus of our faith and hope. He sits on Heaven's throne, and in Him our faith is steadfast and certain. In light of Government guidance published this week we want to share some things that won't change for us as a church family and some things that will.

## UNCHANGING: WHO WE ARE

1. We are encouraging the church to BE church rather than DO church. We remain completely committed to being unashamedly about Jesus and reaching, restoring and releasing people in his name.
2. The scroll will continue being updated on the church website and Janet will check the church phone each day.
3. To live this out, we are highlighting four key principles for our church family to help us respond. **They are explored more in the attached document 'Being Welcome Baptist Church'** which can be printed out or viewed on any device. The headlines are:
  - We will **PRAY** in God's name.
  - We will **PROMOTE** God's Kingdom.
  - We will **PROCLAIM** Good News.
  - We will **PROTECT** Ourselves and Others.

## CHANGING: WHAT WE DO

1. No central gatherings. We are hoping to start live streaming on Sundays soon and are exploring how best to do this.
2. House Groups and other church groups will not be able to meet face-to-face but, can and should continue to communicate with one another and perhaps explore WhatsApp groups
3. There are materials and resources online and via email equipping and encouraging us to BE Welcome Baptist Church in these days. New ones are in the pipeline. [www.welcomechurch.org.uk](http://www.welcomechurch.org.uk)
4. Our Children and Youth activities are ceasing to meet centrally but we are preparing resources for families and systems of connection with the children, young people and families.
5. Pastoral visits will be done over the phone and other means as appropriate. If you would like to speak with someone, or want to connect someone else with us, please contact Andy, Joanne, Sue, Janet, one of the Deacons or speak with your House Group leader.
6. The Staff Team will be working from home as often as appropriate as we get behind our nation's leaders and follow the guidance we've been given.

## CHANGING: THIS SUNDAY

We can join with thousands (if not millions) of other Christians in a Day of Prayer at 7pm. Please use this link

[https://baptist.org.uk/Articles/569777/National\\_Day\\_of.aspx](https://baptist.org.uk/Articles/569777/National_Day_of.aspx)

At 9 am tomorrow morning the Archbishop of Canterbury is leading a special Mother's Day Service. Here is the link

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/online-church>

May we get on our knees and pray, pray, pray that God would heal and protect people all over the world from this virus. And perhaps more importantly that in these times of shaking many will come to recognise and accept Jesus as Lord as a result of our prayers, actions and speech.

Please stay in touch with us as we endeavour to maintain central connection with you!

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May God bless you, and may He strengthen and embolden each of us to be His hands, feet, voice and heart in the coming days.

With Warmest Christian Love

Andy  
(On behalf of the deacons)