

14th March 2020

Castle Hill Baptist Church Response to Covid-19.

In light of the current Covid 19 outbreak, we are writing to advise you that the Diaconate have met today to prayerfully consider how we best protect all those involved in the life of our community.

Consequently, we have decided that it is best to cancel the following, with immediate effect, for the foreseeable future:

- Deeper
- CAMEO
- Senior Lunches
- Craft Club
- Tuesday Together
- Afternoon/Evening services

Tomorrow morning's communion service (15th March) will proceed but with changes to reduce the risk of transferring the Covid 19 virus. **No one should feel under any pressure to attend or feel guilty for making that decision.** Further, we would ask that anyone who has cold symptoms or a fever should self-isolate.

Practically, we will be following the advice from the Government and the Baptist Union regarding greetings and taking a collection—those involved will be advised accordingly. Refreshments at the end of the service will be suspended. Children's groups, other than Attic, will meet as usual.

The Diaconate will meet each Thursday evening to consider the developing situation and the website will be updated accordingly by Friday lunchtime. Please check this and your emails regularly.

For the present, the following activities will continue:

- Tiddlers
- Thursday morning prayer meeting
- 3:16 youth club
- House groups—with the proviso that each leader consults their group to risk assess the viability of meeting
- Church members' meeting
- Gateway and Helping Hands Café

We hope that we have correctly considered the risks in light of this rapidly changing situation.



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The Diaconate is committed to minimising the risks to the whole congregation and particularly those amongst us that are most vulnerable. If, in the coming weeks, all church services have to be suspended, we are formulating plans as to how we best provide practical, emotional, spiritual and pastoral support to all affected. We are all God's children, we are in his hands and we must be prayerful and faithful to each other in these uncertain times.

Pastoral Response

If you have chosen to self-isolate or find you have the virus, please keep in touch with Kevin or Liz by phone, email or messenger. Do also keep in touch with those in your house groups or connect groups. Our normal pastoral care continues, so please do not feel you are burdening us—we want to support those who need it in our community.

Don't forget, all are welcome to use the Prayer Link to share prayer requests. Send your message to Joyce Matthews (prayer@warwickbaptists.org.uk) or give her a call and leave a message (01926 777602). If you want to join this network (which operates by email and phone), contact Joyce and she can arrange this.

Whilst we need to be wise about 'social distancing', this does not mean community cannot be lived out in other ways. Let's keep connected and praying for one another. As things change, we will seek to develop sensible ways of continuing Christ's ministry.

How can we respond to this outbreak in a Christ-like way?

We should bear in mind that taking sensible precautions is not principally an act of self-protection, but primarily an action designed to protect others who are at risk in our congregation and our community. And we should continue to be open-hearted and attentive to the lonely, the vulnerable and the anxious, both within the church and beyond. Above all, we will face the future (which is always uncertain) with courage and faith in God.

Clean hands, open hearts!

How do I find out more information?

If you have any queries or concerns then, in the first instance, contact Chris Williams via the Church Mobile (07939 662189) or Alan Skillicorn (01926) 411619. The Administrator's email will also be monitored daily (admin@warwickbaptists.org.uk).

Regular updates will also be posted on our website: <https://warwickbaptists.org.uk/coronavirus/>

For more information about good hygiene or concerns regarding symptoms, please either visit:

- www.nhs.uk/coronavirus
- www.gov.uk (where you will find a link for more info)
- call 111

May we all continue to pray for one another and know God's blessings at this time,

Kevin