

Clarence Park Baptist Church

COVID-19/Coronavirus

If you are feeling unwell, we would ask you to not attend church and that you follow the guidelines from the NHS and if concerned contact 111 for advice.

During the coronavirus outbreak, until we are told otherwise by local or national government, Clarence Park Baptist Church will remain open for worship services as usual. In the meantime, we will continue to monitor closely the advice of Public Health England, the NHS and the Baptist Union.

When gathering for worship, but also in general, will all those who are attending activities in the church or in housegroups please be mindful of the following as we seek to follow best-hygiene practices.

1. Whilst we want to give everyone a warm welcome on their arrival and encouragement as they leave. We will be doing this without a **traditional handshake**.
2. We would like to ask you to please be considerate of others and so would like to remind you to regularly **wash your hands** for 20 seconds using antibacterial soap and drying your hands on the provided paper towels which need to be disposed of in the bins. Images showing how to wash your hands correctly are displayed in by every sink in the church building. It is advised that you at least wash your hands as soon as you arrive at church and when you get back home.
3. As soon as **hand gel** can be sourced that will be available in church and you are requested to use it when entering the building.
4. When **coughing or sneezing**, cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or your sleeve, not your hands. Place the tissue in the bin immediately and wash your hands as soon as possible
5. Please respect others health and **refrain from close contact** in order to help prevent any spread of the virus, this includes hand shaking, hugging and greeting others with a kiss.
6. If you do have to **self-isolate**, please let us know so that the appropriate pastoral care can be offered during this time

Catering

The safety and well-being of our church members, visitors and those who serve our church ministries are extremely important to us, and so following updates from the Baptist Union, taking into consideration that many of our older folk have underlying health issues, in order to reduce the risk of passing on infection **the decision has been taken to suspend catering of refreshments before and after the service on a Sunday, at Wednesday Communion, Community Coffee and Seniors Lunches are cancelled for March and April.**

Further instruction is being issued to groups who meet on church premises regarding their situation during the week.

Communion

We will continue to share communion twice a month, but for the foreseeable future we shall be taking sensible precautions. Wine shall continue to be served in individual glasses, but the bread will be pre-cut to avoid it passing through multiple hands. **There will be some who might choose to take just the cup or to not wish to take the bread and wine because of concern over their health. This is perfectly acceptable.**

Offerings

We will refrain from taking an offering in our Sunday services in order to avoid the need to pass the offering bag around the congregation. There will be plates put out in the foyer as you enter and leave the church for your church offerings to be made.

Prayer

Please join us in continuing to pray for those affected by this virus around the world, especially the families of those who have passed away.

As soon as we are notified of any changes to what we need to do as recommended by the government, NHS or the Baptist Union we will attempt to update the church as soon as possible.

Your Understanding and support at this time is appreciated.

Rev. Steve Christian - Minister

[14-03-2020]