

Wellington Presbyterian Church - 27 March 2020

Dear Congregation

I think few of us ever imagined that as a congregation we would be facing the challenge of Covid-19. The concern of those who will become infected, their own particular suffering and that of their families is our highest concern. We, like the rest of the nation, have supported all the measures put in place to reduce the risk of transmitting infection. In fact, in measuring the possible risk, we have exceeded those requirements.

As a church we have looked for simple and creative ways of staying in touch with you. Fundamentally this is to ensure that you are okay and to assess the ongoing needs of our congregation. We have tried to maintain our contact through social media, landline and mobile calls. We are also aware of the potential of neither our calls or social media reaching those who continue to be isolated and, whilst encouraging the congregation to download our magazine and information sheets, we felt that a magazine drop to those most needy would be in keeping with our concern to keep you connected to vital services. Those services may require prescriptions or food to be brought to you. We are more than willing to attend to this whilst maintaining the good governance of social distancing. The paragraphs below contain information of how you can contact us as your needs arise.

We are also aware that for some, perhaps for us all, we may still wish to make contributions to the church. We met together to discuss this and to a person felt that your health and safety were our highest concern but neither did we want to reduce the possibility of those who still wanted to contribute to the ongoing work and mission of the church not having the facility to do so. Therefore, it was agreed that in the short term we would create a mechanism that would facilitate that and John, our Treasurer, has outlined how that process might work below.

Can I assure you, even in the midst of the greatest challenge this church has faced in decades, we will make every effort to continue to be the family of God. I commit you to His love, care and grace.

Alistair

Church Services.

At this time, we are unable to meet together as a church family and are now dispersed in our homes. We have not, however, stopped worshipping together and our Sunday Morning Services continue each Sunday at 11:00am, being streamed live on our website, www.wellingtonpc.co.uk – just follow the link.

Services are also on our church Facebook page so you can watch them anytime - search for 'Wellington Presbyterian Church'. Other links are available during the week so keep looking! And young folk might want to keep an eye on our 'Wellington Youth' and 'Wellington Kids' Facebook pages!

We realise some do not have access to the internet. We will endeavour to keep producing DVDs/CDs of our Sunday Services which will be delivered or posted out to those who regularly receive them. Please contact us on the church email address or ring the office between 10:00am and 12:00noon Monday to Friday if you want to start getting a DVD or CD and we will do our best to get these to you.

Pastoral Care.

The Ministry Team, your District Elder or others from the Church with whom you may have had contact in the past, are unable to visit you at the moment. We would, however, like to keep in contact with you.

We have contact details for many, while for others our information is incomplete. We would request that you confirm your contact details i.e. telephone number (landline and/or mobile) and your email address by email or by telephone to your District Elder. If you need your Elder's contact details please contact:

Email: office@wellingtonpc.co.uk or phone **028 2564 7185** between 10:00am and 12:00noon Monday - Friday.

- Should you need to contact a member of the Ministry Team this can be done by contacting your District Elder. Your request will be passed on to the appropriate person.
- If you wish to contact a member of the Ministry Team directly please use the telephone numbers below:

Rev Alistair Bates, Minister: 07802 840086

Eleanor Drysdale, Deaconess: 07762 300357

Peter McClelland, Youth & Community Worker: 07763 679875

- You may also contact the church office: email - office@wellingtonpc.co.uk or telephone **028 2564 7185** (Please be aware that email is preferred as the office may only be open from 10:00am-12:00noon each weekday morning)

- If you are self-isolating or otherwise unable to leave your home and require food or prescriptions to be collected and delivered to your home, please contact your District Elder. Volunteers will offer assistance and deliver to your doorstep. They will contact you and remain at a safe distance until you have collected the items.

Helping Hand Food Ministry.

We consider our food ministry to be essential to many families with significant needs at this time. Needs that are mounting in the current situation.

We continue to have the Church Hall Foyer open (Monday - Friday 10:00am and 12:00noon) for donations of nonperishable food items. Just leave your food on one of the trolleys in the foyer - you will not be in contact with anyone else and if others are there please wait outside until they have left to protect both you and them. Perhaps you could include any visits to the church during your weekly shopping trip!

We would, of course, respectfully ask you not to bring food or come to the church if you display any symptoms that might pose a risk to the Helping Hand Team or others.

Church Giving.

During this time when the church is not meeting you may wish to consider how you can financially support the work. The method that we are recommending in the short term is by BANK TRANSFER.

You can transfer money directly from your bank account to ours. If you are in a position to do this you need to ensure that you quote a Payment Reference to enable your gift to be correctly identified. Please include your 3-digit FWO number (printed on your FWO envelopes), the first initial of your Christian name and the first 4 letters of your surname, e.g. Payment Reference: 123 B ANON

You will then require the church's bank details:

*Bank details will be included in an email or paper copy of this leaflet that will be delivered to all homes of members within the next 10 days. Otherwise please contact the church office:
office@wellingtonpc.co.uk or 028 2564 7185*

The funds will be lodged to the Church General Account however 10% of the contributions will be transferred to support our ongoing missionary work.

We have also put in place the following arrangements.

1. Provided a new mail box at the church gates. This will be emptied regularly and, in any event, each evening.
2. Provided a box in the Church Hall Foyer which will be available from 10:00am-12:00noon Monday-Friday.

If you are not in a position to set up a bank transfer, please use your FWO envelopes and, if you have an opportunity, drop them into the new mail box or the box in the church foyer. You may of course be unable to do any of the above. Please consider setting aside your offering each week and place on the offering plate when we next meet together. We pray that this will be soon. Please don't use many separate envelopes - combine them into one for each month and this will reduce the administrative burden.

Envelopes for the usual Easter Appeal will not be issued. Some of you may, however, wish to continue to support the Property Fund. Is so please use one of the monthly Property Fund envelopes and mark it 'Easter 2020'. Please do **not** use a bank transfer for these donations!

Your cooperation and continuing support will be greatly appreciated.

PLEASE NOTE!

The information on this leaflet is the best that we have available at this point in time and is subject to change in the light of future government guidance as the situation develops.