

Dear Newbold Church Family,

We're responding

Given our total commitment to the wellbeing of our community, we will be suspending all church services and gatherings for the time being in light of recent Government recommendations. The only exception is the Night Shelter, which is likely to remain open for its last two weeks as scheduled.

We are developing new ways to be, and to grow, as a church "without walls". Streaming of the Sabbath morning service will continue and resources for Sabbath School, Pathfinders and Adventurers will be shared. An online giving option will also be made available.

We are also working on ways to enable our church community to support each other where needed and will be sharing practical information to help us stay healthy, busy and resilient while usual routines are disrupted.

We trust

As we face uncertainty, we would like to encourage everyone with the assurance we find in the words of one who faced a lot of things outside his control:

*'I have **learnt** to be **content** whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have **learned** the secret of being **content** in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.'* Phil. 4

During this time, we are looking forward to see the following strengths of our community become very apparent:

- **Resourceful** – a lot of innovative ideas of how to be a thriving church, how to find materials and how to be involved in our highest calling – to spread the love of God;
- **Resilient** – we will discover how strong we are as individuals, as a church community, and as followers of Christ;
- **Resolute** – we will not allow difficult circumstances to rob us of the sense of His peace and presence with us; we are stubborn like that!

We stay together

As a leadership team, we remain committed to serve and care for you by:

- Supporting your families and small groups;
- Developing appropriate communication channels for these circumstances: weekly and (working towards) daily online messages of encouragement;
- Providing a helpline – for spiritual care and prayer or if you need something more practical: Marcel – 07814 009063, Janos – 07789711746. Ruth Clemow (social isolation) - 07446 868774
- We are here with you and will continue to serve.

PS: in this past week's sermon (Early and Family Service), I shared about our family's journey through cancer, 5 years ago. Here you are able to read our reflections at the time, listed in reverse chronological order, in the hope that they will encourage some of you: <https://ichewon.wordpress.com>.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." Numbers 6:24