

Dear Newbold Church Family,

Below, we will outline our response to this rapidly changing set of circumstances which face our local and international church. We are committed to do the following:

We stay vigilant

We are assessing the COVID-19 situation daily and evaluating the recommendations made by the UK Government and Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Isles. In response to this situation and in order to enable us as a church to effectively respond to the current circumstances, we have formed the Crisis Monitoring and Management Group (CMMG) that will be responsible for making decisions relating to the current situation. The CMMG includes: the pastoral team, AdCom (Treasurer, Strategy Elder, Building manager, Head Deacons and Deaconesses, Deaconate Elder), 3 Service Head Elders, Medical Professional, and Technology leader, and any other person which will assist us in making good decisions.

We stay safe

The CMMG met on the 12th March 2020 and made the following decisions in regard to the following activities:

DEPARTMENTAL & EXTERNAL EVENTS:

- **Youth:** Blood Bank, People's Kitchen, Wicks Green Work Party, PGL – **postponed**;
- **Pathfinder and Adventurers:** ABE & PBE – on-line; TED (ABE&PBE finals) – **cancelled**;
Camping – to be assessed closer to the time;
- **Other Events:** ADRA door-to-door – **cancelled**; ADRA concert – **will be reconsidered at a later stage**; Special Needs Training – **cancelled**; Health & Wellbeing Programme – **postponed**.
- **Hires:** we will **not yet** stop the hiring of our building to existing and external groups.

REGULAR MINISTRIES:

- **Potlucks** – as a church, we will **suspend** organising potlucks.
- **Tuesday Club** – will be **suspended** until further notice.
- **Toddler Group** – will **continue** to operate until further notice.
- **Night Shelter** – will **continue** to operate until further notice.
- **Workday** (29.03) – will **go ahead** as planned; the need for deeper cleaning is greater now than ever.

CHURCH SERVICES:

- We are running regular church services (Early Service, Children and Adult Sabbath School, Family and Contemporary Services) this Sabbath (14.03), with three main provisos:
 1. We will advise older people with **underlying health conditions AND people** who are experiencing a **cough** and **fever** of 37.8 C and higher, to consider very carefully the risks associated with attending church services. People can stay at home or meet in a smaller group.
 2. Our 11:15 services will be **streamed online** and you can access the links on www.newboldchurch.org.
 3. We are assessing the situation daily and will **very likely suspend** church services in the very near future.

CONTINGENCY:

When the time will come for us to suspend regular church services, the following contingencies are put in place:

- We are creating a **new webpage interface** on www.newboldchurch.org, as this will be our main portal for providing the following: live streaming of the 11:15 service, Children and Adult Sabbath School materials, Up to date news, a donation website, a mobile donation application, Small Groups \ Family Worship resource materials.
 - In keeping with government advice, we may have to cancel large gatherings, however, we will make provision of materials for family and small groups, which we will encourage to self-organise (and inform us).
- Every day, our church building is **cleaned** and especially those contact places which pose higher risk: door handles, light switches, café and kitchen surfaces.
- Prior to using the College facilities, the buildings will be cleaned as mentioned above.

We stay together

We would like to inform all church family members and our friends that we are committed to serve and care for you by:

- a. Organizing concerted **prayer** efforts.
- b. Developing appropriate **communication** channels for these circumstances.
- c. **Our helpline – for spiritual care and prayer, as well as visitation requests: Marcel – 07814 009063, Janos – 07789711746. Conversation and reducing social isolation – Ruth Clemow – 07446868774.**
- d. Putting in place adequate **response teams** to enable us to make right and speedy decisions e.g. CMMG, elders, etc.

We know in whom we believe

When very often our human response to difficulty is fear and panic, the Bible reminds us that while trouble is part and parcel of our existence on this earth, God remains committed to being with His children. The greatest assurance we have in the Scriptures is that God will never abandon His people and that He is more than willing and able to see us through the difficulties which will come our way. We are confident in His providence, mercy and resolve to bring us to Himself for ever.

Take courage and claim this promise: *“The LORD Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”* (NIV) **Deuteronomy 31:8.**

CMMG

PS: we encourage you all to consult official websites, in order to avoid misinformation. There is a lot of material circulated on social media, which is not useful and even dangerous.