

SYDENHAM METHODIST CHURCH
CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR CHURCH LIFE DURING THE CORONAVIRUS 20.3.20

As there are no church activities, including Sunday worship, we have put the following plans in place.

Worship - A service of prayers and readings, with a sermon will be given by me and placed on our church website each Sunday morning (www.sydenhammethodist.org) Our email newsletter will continue to give church news and that will also come out at least weekly each Sunday morning. A hard copy of the service and sermon will be available for collection or delivery for those who don't have internet. There will also be a weekly sermon from the President, the Rev Sam McGuffin on www.irishmethodist.org as well as other resources. There is the likes of Songs of Praise, as well as watching and listening to services on TV and radio.

Pastoral Care - This will be offered to those who are more vulnerable. Each person will be assigned someone who will keep in contact with them on the phone, and offer to get the likes of urgent groceries or prescriptions as necessary, especially if there is no family who can do this. They can also deliver a hard copy of the service and sermon each Sunday. I will continue with pastoral care through phone calls. If anyone is feeling anxious or has any other worries, please free to contact me. If you feel that you could make and/or deliver a meal, or help out in any other way, please let me know.

Church Building - We have decided that, for as long as we can, the church building should be open on Sundays between 11am and 12noon. This could be to offer personal prayer, and it will also provide an opportunity to leave in Storehouse items (tins and baby food, as well as the crisps this month), Free Will Envelopes and also pick up items such as your Methodist Newsletter (when available) and hard copies of the service material. There is no compulsion to be there, and if you do decide to call in, please continue to abide by the strict NHS guidelines about washing hands and keeping appropriate distance.

Offering - If you wish to move from envelopes to Standing orders you can do so by collecting the appropriate forms from the vestry on a Sunday morning or by calling Brian Maxwell on 9042 4239 or 078 5078 9941. Giving your offering through Standing Order, or alternatively Direct Bank Transfer, helps the Stewards with the ongoing payments of the church.

For either of these methods, the information you need is:

Account Name : Sydenham Methodist Church

Account Number: 50083232 Sort Code: 95 03 32

In any case we invite church members to continue to pay into their offering each week as normal. If necessary we can arrange for your offering to be collected from your home.

Youth & Children's ministry - The team at IMYC are putting together some materials for children and young people, and as these are available I will let you know. In the meantime, there will be a live youth session with Team on Mission on Sunday evenings at 7pm (IMYC FaceBook); children's teaching and craft with Team on Mission on Fridays at 12noon (IMYC YouTube account); and a podcast with Team on Mission on Wednesdays at 4pm (IMYC website). Please keep checking the IMYC website for more details of resources in the future.

Communication - I want to keep in touch with as many people as possible. Currently we have 90 people signed up on email and 60 people to receive hard copies of the Sunday service material. If you know of other family or friends who would like to receive the church news on email, please ask them to get in touch with me. If there is a total lock down in the future, then we will not be able to have the church open at any time, nor be able to deliver the service material. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions or ideas.

We are in unprecedented times, and things are changing constantly, so these are the plans for the moment. I hope that you will stay safe, and keep others safe; that you will keep on praying and serving those around you. And through it all we know that the Lord is with us and will provide for us.

In Christ,

Robin

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