

17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

### **MCHW response to coronavirus**

Due to the ongoing situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic the Ministerial Team have made the decision to **suspend all activities, meetings and all worship services** until further notice. This is following guidance given by the Methodist Church on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

We are sure that this news will come as a disappointment, however, we hope you will understand our desire to exercise care and concern for all. As soon as we are able, we will resume our normal activities.

Please check on our website (<https://methodist-central-hall.org.uk/>) and Church Suite for further updates.

A reminder of our guidance on pastoral visiting in care homes, hospitals and homes of poorly people:

Elderly, weak and poorly people are most likely to have low immunity and are least able to fight the coronavirus. For this reason hospitals and care homes are discouraging or even prohibiting visiting. Consequently for the time being our pattern of pastoral care, by both ministers and pastoral leaders, will change. Physical visits will lessen and phone calls to maintain contact and prayer will be used. Friends visiting friends in the congregation must do so with care and mutual agreement.

The team is working hard to enable us to continue to worship together as a community, as best we can. This may be through streaming via the internet or by providing resources so that we can worship at home, or aspects of both. We are working to see if it is possible to have a prayer space open in the chapel. Further information will become available on the website and via social media.

Finally, let us continue to support one another as a Church family at this time. Remembering to keep in touch with one another and pray for each other and the world.

A prayer from the Methodist Church:

*God of all hope we call on you today.  
We pray for those who are living in fear:  
Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them.  
May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.*

*We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty.  
For those people who are worried about attending worship.  
For those needing to make decisions in order to care for other*

*For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend.  
Grant us your wisdom.*

*Holy God, we remember that you have promised that  
Nothing will separate us from your love – demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ.  
Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you.*

*Amen*

Yours in Christ,

Martyn, Tony, Ali and Gordon.