



# LBC response to Coronavirus What we are currently doing

APRIL 2020

## Encourage one another...

So writes Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:11. These words ring particularly true in these days of isolation; we realise the need for 'one another', being part of a Christian family, a church community where we can encourage one another and continue to grow in Christ. The good news is that even though we can't still physically meet over the last month we've managed to re-organise ourselves to ensure that we can continue to encourage one another. We can meet virtually in many different ways during the week.

Having just celebrated Easter we have been reminded once again of the centrality of the cross and the resurrection. The hope of the disciple of Jesus is not in the things we can see and touch, it isn't in our achievements or work, it isn't dimmed by the current situation. Hebrews 10:23: 'Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.' Our hope is in Jesus who died to save us and was raised to life so that we can know life through him both now and forever.

The past few weeks remind us again that the church isn't an institution that delivers Christian products, but a family of disciples following Christ. Let's continue to be

encouraged that God is with us, even in the trials, he never leaves us as he is always with us by his Holy Spirit. The church is all of us, we are all called, all have a part to play. I've said this before but the best pastoral care, the best demonstration of love and support isn't that which we organise as a Leadership or a Pastoral Team, it isn't provided by me, Chris or Deb but is that which just happens one with each other, as we are guided by the Lord to pray for each other, to phone each other, to check in with each other and see how we are. Where we pray for each other over Zoom or down the phone, where we post an encouraging card or offer to pick up a prescription or mow someone's grass! Let's keep encouraging one another as we are already doing.

This week I'd like to set out some key info about where things are up to:

## Spiritual support

- Our services are being streamed on-line; Sunday mornings will continue at 10.30am until such a time as it is safe for the church family to meet together again.
- CD's are being made available to those who can't access the on-line services, if you, or someone you know, would appreciate a CD please contact the office: [admin@lymbaptistchurch.com](mailto:admin@lymbaptistchurch.com)
- On most Wednesday evenings at 7pm we are running our Hebrews sermon series with a follow-on discussion on Zoom.
- Each Thursday afternoon at 4pm we have our streamed All-age worship - please contact Sarah to find out more: [sarah.rotchell@lymbaptistchurch.com](mailto:sarah.rotchell@lymbaptistchurch.com)
- Young people's work is continuing Zoom on Sunday evenings - please contact Chloe Clarke for more details: [chloe.clarke@lymbaptistchurch.com](mailto:chloe.clarke@lymbaptistchurch.com)
- Many of our small groups are continuing to meet over Zoom during the week - if you'd like to join a small group please contact Will for further info: [web@lymbaptistchurch.com](mailto:web@lymbaptistchurch.com)
- Monday evenings at 8pm we have a weekly Zoom prayer meeting. Our prayer chains and prayer support teams are also helping support the church family. Please contact Louise for any more information: [louise.turnbull@lymbaptistchurch.com](mailto:louise.turnbull@lymbaptistchurch.com)
- Giving is very much part of our worship, if you would like to consider regular giving to LBC please contact Helen Hickin: [helen.hickin@lymbaptistchurch.com](mailto:helen.hickin@lymbaptistchurch.com)

## Pastoral support

- Our Pastoral Team is keeping in regular contact with many people in our church family who we know for a whole variety of reasons are self-isolating.
- If you would like to chat or pray with someone in confidence or would like to have regular contact from our Pastoral Team, please contact Deb or Jonathan: [deb.instone@lymbaptistchurch.com](mailto:deb.instone@lymbaptistchurch.com) [jonathan@lymbaptistchurch.com](mailto:jonathan@lymbaptistchurch.com)

- Friendly Chat: It's great to have so many people available to chat on the phone, as the weeks keep passing us by all of us experience isolation and to chat to someone else can be really encouraging. Please ask the office for a copy of the most up-to-date version of the rota [admin@lymbaptistchurch.com](mailto:admin@lymbaptistchurch.com) or find it on the weekly news email.

## Practical support

- We have a team of people who can help with shopping and picking up of prescriptions - please contact Mark: [markinstone1@gmail.com](mailto:markinstone1@gmail.com)
- For any other needs please contact the office: [admin@lymbaptistchurch.com](mailto:admin@lymbaptistchurch.com)

## Community Involvement

- At the front of the church building is a banner explaining that whilst our building remains closed, as a church family we are very much active. There is an email address which is available to everyone for both prayerful and practical support: [support@lymbaptistchurch.com](mailto:support@lymbaptistchurch.com)
- We are currently exploring how as a church family we can best support other local initiatives; more details will follow shortly. Please contact Chris for any further information: [chris.goswami@lymbaptistchurch.com](mailto:chris.goswami@lymbaptistchurch.com)
- We are collecting food for Oasis in Gorton, food is collected from the front of church on a Monday between 6-7pm. Please observe social distancing rules when dropping off any items. For a list of what is currently needed please contact Angela Crowe: [angela.crowe@oasisgorton.org](mailto:angela.crowe@oasisgorton.org)
- As Christians being salt and light where God has placed us is such a witness to his love and compassion. Are there ways in your road, area, community that you could get involved in supporting and caring for others?

## Staff team:

As per the governments instructions all our staff are now based from home. For many of us this brings with it challenges of having family around, of very different work patterns and, if we're honest, we're just missing everyone and being together as a team & with our wider church family. For all of us life isn't the same, some of our staff are juggling ministry with home schooling (which is a challenge!), please be patient with us if emails or phone calls take longer to respond to than might normally be the case - we are doing our best 😊.

In terms of who to contact regarding different areas of church life:

Jonathan Bramwell (Lead Minister): Overseeing all the streamed content, supporting the pastoral team and involved with pastoral care, oversight of staff and leadership team.

Chris Goswami (Associate Minister): Community involvement, supporting with streamed content and pastoral care.

Sarah Rotchell (Children's & Families): Leading all-age streaming, caring for children and families & involvement with the younger youth.

Ryan Mortar: (Youth intern): Continues to support our young people.

Church Office: Sam & Alison continue to be the main point of contact for anything to do with church life. If you've got a question about church life they will know the answer! In addition to their usual work they are also helping support distribution of CD's and printed materials and organising lots of new rotas. They are also taking this time to get us set up with new software that will allow us to once again have a church directory!

Richard: As centre manager much of Richard's role has changed, there are no tables to put out each day, no chairs that need moving. Instead, Richard is spending his time decorating (smaller upstairs rooms), additional gardening and ensuring that when the building can be used again it is in a good state of repair. Deborah continues to clean the building which is still needed, especially since improvements to the building are ongoing and not yet complete.

## What next?

We simply can't answer questions about when restrictions will be lifted or how but just a few things we can say:

- As soon as we can (legally and safely) we will resume meeting together. We will respond to situations quickly as they unfold.
- Our aim throughout is to keep our church family sustainable both spiritually and practically, we don't want to start off doing too much only to then have to stop things because we've run out of energy. We realise that it could be quite some time before we can all meet together and so we'd rather add things slowly to what we are doing rather than have to stop things.
- Once restrictions are lifted to the extent of allowing Church Meetings to take place we will look to rescheduling these.
- We will keep trusting that God who can use all things for his glory will keep us focused on him during this difficult time!

God bless,

Jonathan