

17 March 2020

Important Message from the UV Leadership Team

Loving our neighbour as Jesus Christ called His followers to do is challenging at the best of times, but during a pandemic it becomes even more tricky, not least because we can become unwitting carriers of the virus ourselves.

In the light of the Government's announcement yesterday, our Trustees met last night. It is clear that we cannot just carry on as normal and that we must take notice of Government advice. Therefore, from today we are suspending all gathered UV activities for the foreseeable future. This includes all mid-week meetings, small groups, youth and children's activities and Sunday services.

This is not something we do lightly or easily, but with a heavy sense of responsibility. We understand that it will raise many questions which we can't answer at the moment. We have very real concerns about how we love and serve people during this time. Our understanding of the teaching of Jesus to love our neighbour as we would love ourselves has been, and will be, our primary objective throughout this crisis.

Upton Vale Baptist Church is nearly 200 years old; it has continued to honour God and serve this town through wars, the Great Depression, famines and even outbreaks of plague – and we will do so again. As Christians we believe that God is at work in every situation for the good of those who love Him, and we invite you to join us in prayer that the Coronavirus will turn out to be a great opportunity for us to be good news to our town, and that we will discover some wonderful and innovative ways of being church together.

We will do our utmost to keep you well informed on a regular basis. If you are anxious and would appreciate someone praying for you, or if you need practical help in some way, please do not hesitate to contact us via the Church website, the community email or leave a message on 01803 400403.

Feel free to pass this message along.

Grace and peace to you all.

UV Leadership Team

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