

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020

Dear Church,

It's with eager anticipation that I look forward to our in-person services re-starting this Sunday with live streams being broadcast for the benefit of those who can't attend. The services will be considerably different to what we were all used to but, I believe that they will be no less pleasing to God. For example, we will be using pre-sealed communion wine (non-alcoholic) and we will all need to bring our own bread.

In this instance the changes have been mandated by the Government. Regardless of who or what causes changes, anything new brings with it difficulties and opportunities. Nonetheless, Ian, one of our Elders, shared with the other Elders a compelling challenge for us to seize the opportunities that the present situation offers. I'd like to share his challenge with you now...

When it's time, don't let church go back to "normal."

Resolve to:

Give higher worship.

Pray weightier prayers.

Preach deeper sermons.

Enjoy sweeter fellowship.

Develop holier disciples.

Celebrate heartier reunions.

Lord, let that be true of us, amen!

Stephen

## News & Events

**In-person Services** – We will be running trial services in our building this Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 10:30am and 5:00pm. Please arrive early for the services so that the Welcome Team can seat people according to household groups in an orderly fashion. Due to the social-distancing requirements, we may not be able to admit late arrivals. Face coverings are not mandatory, however, please feel free to wear a mask if you wish to. Anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell) should not attend the services due to the risk that they pose to others; they should self-isolate at home immediately with other members of their household.

**Communion** – Pre-sealed communion wine cups have been purchased for use in the services this Sunday. PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BREAD. If you'll be watching from home you might like to prepare your own wine and bread so that you too can participate in that element of the service.

**Recommended Reading** – Our recommendations for this week are Ruth and *Messianic Life Lessons from the Book of Ruth* by Sam Nadler.

**Media for Children** – With RightNow Media, every family can enjoy hundreds of Bible-based shows and devotionals that are entertaining and safe for children of all ages. For more information and to view some sample shows visit [uk.rightnowmedia.org](http://uk.rightnowmedia.org)

**Refurbishment** – Lockdown has provided the opportunity for the Property Ministry to carry out extensive redecoration throughout the building. This has included the redecoration of the burgundy wall in the Welcome Area that had become marked by scuffs and scrapes. Some replacement banners have also been installed in the Worship Area on the theme of 'blessing' in the Psalms. Discussion was had with current members who had made the previous banners before this took place. The new banners were made possible by an anonymous donation. John C. is now Project Managing the Kitchen refurbishment on a voluntary basis. Ministries that regularly use the kitchen are being consulted on the specifications.

## Prayer & Praise

**Prayer & Fasting Psalm for Monday:** Psalm 83

### General thanksgiving for...

- Jewish followers of Jesus from Jerusalem helping Arab followers of Jesus in Bethlehem who are struggling due to lockdown.

### General intercession for...

- Justin Welby's Spirit-filled leadership in public and Parliament.
- God to prevent a second wave of Covid-19 in the UK.
- For residents on New Road to read the Hope magazines that they receive from the Bromham churches.
- Staff and patients at the Utange Health Centre which is still open with Covid measures in place.
- Peace and protection for Israel now they have enacted their Sovereignty over Judea and Samaria thanks to President Trump's peace deal (Psalm 83:4-5).
- Salvation for the people of Iran, Lebanon etc (Psalm 83:16-18).
- Hong Kong coming under mounting dictatorship by China.
- Persecuted Christians starving in Chinese detention camps.

### Personal thanksgiving for...

- All those who could attend George's funeral alongside Doreen.

### Personal intercession for...

- Julie D, awaiting treatment for breast cancer and cancer in the lymph nodes.
- Bill H, a cancerous lesion has been discovered on his lung and may need to be removed surgically.
- New flights required for Paul and Debbie.

## This week

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

7:00pm

Elevate Youth via Zoom

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July

10:30am

Morning service

5:00pm

Evening service

### Weekdays

Discipleship Groups will be connecting as per their own arrangements