

Dear friends,

The leaders of Malvern Baptist Church have discussed our response to the Corona virus threat and in line with government guidelines, Baptist Union guidelines, and other major denominations, we have decided with great regret to suspend all church meetings starting Sunday 22nd March until further notice. This is to respect the Government's attempts to limit the spread of the virus, and to protect the many 'at-risk' members of our church community. So to be clear, physical gatherings such as Sunday Services, home groups, and prayer meetings will be suspended from Sunday.

However, the scripture makes it clear

Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV

Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, [25] not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Therefore we will attempt to stay connected using technology, be it via the net or the phone. I will be posting the Sunday sermon on the website <http://www.malvernchristianchurch.org.uk/sermons.html> each week. We will also be looking at setting up a more sophisticated way of broadcasting messages using video-conferencing. This could possibly be used for home groups too. Please check our website to keep up to date with the church situation and we will email out any further developments.

The pastoral team, home group leaders and I will be keeping in touch with you via the telephone, and please let me know if you need help in any way, such as shopping. Please don't hesitate to ring if you need to talk or you want prayer. Perhaps you could consider ringing others you know also. (If you need a phone list please let me know)

The Baptist Union advice is to avoid unnecessary personal contact so I will try to keep pastoral visiting to a minimum, but if you need a visit please give me a call.

Remember, don't be anxious, trust in the Lord, please look out for one another and remember to bear up one another, and our nation, in prayer.

For those without email/internet I will call them by phone to let them know that the church services have been suspended and write to anyone else for whom we only have a postal address.

Yours in Christ

Rev Dave Clarke

Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

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<http://www.malvernchristianchurch.org.uk>