

CLARENCE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

AUGUST 2020

WORSHIP God **GROW** Together **SERVE** Others

FUTURE PLANS

SEPT TO NOV 2020

WHAT NEXT FOR OUR CHURCH LIFE TOGETHER?

It was on the 23rd March 2020 following the announcement from our Government, that we closed our church doors whilst we entered into a period of lockdown and self-isolation.

From the 4th July it was announced that churches could open for private prayer only, and then a few weeks later, provided restrictions are in place we have been allowed to hold services in the church.

At that point the leadership agreed that we would not re-open until September for worship.

So now, as September approaches what is our way forward going to look like?

This leaflet will fill you in on our plans as we look forward and move into our next stage of being a community of Gods people together.



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TOGETHER

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THE GOSPEL

WORSHIP

One of the foundations of our Baptist identity is that we are called to be a gathered community who worship, grow and serve together.

Until now, we have been worshipping online or via CD's and praying together using Zoom. As lockdown restrictions are lifted, many people have indicated in our recent questionnaire that they are not yet ready to return to the building for worship. So our next step as a church needs to reflect this opinion, but also look at how we return to gathering together as God's people.

As we look ahead, we will gently adjust what we currently do in order to ease ourselves into new ways of coming together for worship as God's people.

Sunday Mornings — From Sept 6th

Our Sunday Morning services will remain pre-recorded and shared on our YouTube channel at 10:30am.



Communion will become part of our Sunday morning worship and will be celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month as people are invited to celebrate and have a shared unity as we gather in our own homes.

(A few people who have chosen to 'bubble' with one another have been meeting in their homes to share the service. Provided this is done in accordance with guidelines this is a great way to share in worship together)



We are aware that numbers on Zoom vary from week to week and so we will no longer gather on Zoom before the service goes live, but instead just meet after the worship service for 'virtual' coffee, a time of shared prayer and then leave the room open for conversation as we catch up with one another's news.

Midweek Service - Wed 7:30- 8:00 pm from Sept 9th

We will replace our midweek Wednesday morning communion service with a midweek service in our church building. Although the actual format and content will evolve over time, it will consist of a time of reflection, listening to music, a short thought on a Bible passage and an opportunity for quiet prayer.



The meeting will need to follow the strict guidelines issued by the government for how we are able to meet in our church buildings.

This service will be recorded and then later uploaded to our YouTube channel so that those who are unable to attend can also participate. We are hoping to upgrade our technology at church so that this service can be streamed live to those who are watching, enabling those using smart phones, tablets or computers to interact via chat with the worship leader in real time.

By changing this service we will be able to gently become used to how we use our building and gather for worship. So when we are ready to meet on a Sunday we have learned the lessons needed for both using the building but also continuing to live stream for those who need to watch from a different location or from their own homes.

*DETAILS OF HOW TO BOOK
WILL FOLLOW SHORTLY*



*For those not on the internet
we will continue to produce
CD's of our services for
people to listen to.*

No Internet Connection

CURRENT REQUIREMENTS FOR MEETING IN CHURCH

In order to comply with the government guidelines, the following will need to be followed in order to participate in activities in the church building:

- Social distancing guidelines will always need to be followed
- Pre-book a seat (there will be limited seats available due to spacing required and so it will be essential to register to make sure we can accommodate you). On arrival you and members of your household will be shown to allocated seats that are spaced 2 metres apart from other households
- You must stay away if you or a member of your household are showing any Covid-19 symptoms
- You may have to queue outside the church building, spaced 2 metres apart, until the doors are opened
- You will be required to sanitise your hands on entering the building
- Face coverings will be required to be worn indoors
- No singing will be permitted by the congregation
- You will not be able to shake hands or share hugs with those outside of your household
- You will be required to leave the building and its vicinity as soon as the church service ends. There will be no refreshments after the service and no hanging around to chat to each other
- Your details will be held for Track and Trace purposes for 21 days after each meeting

GROW

One of the struggles that we have had during lockdown is the fact that homegroups have not been able to meet for us to learn together.



Starting in October, we would like to move forward with developing ways for us to learn together and grow in our faith and journey as disciples of Jesus Christ.

This group will initially meet using Zoom on a Tuesday evening and will use prepared questions to take the Sunday service theme deeper. These questions will be posted on the church website each week for people to download and look through before the meeting. Each week will be led by a different church leader and people are invited to join in as often as they would like and are able to.

While we will start with one Zoom meeting, if there is enough demand, we will use the breakout rooms facility to create groups of around 10 on the same evening so that people are able to all be involved and contribute. Zoom meeting details will be available on the church closed Facebook page.

We are conscious that not everyone will be able to make a Tuesday evening. So, as we grow this ministry for learning, other times will be made available. This will include different days and times on Zoom, as well as exploring whether a small group could meet in the church (following strict guidelines).

Previously, many different groups have used different materials and followed different curriculums as they meet. Our intention is that every group meeting will use the material for that week so that, if people are unable to make Tuesdays, they don't need to miss out on what is being discussed that week.

SERVE

As we move into September, we are aware that while YouTube enables us to be consumers where we just watch the services that are provided, a significant part of our growing as disciples is our involvement in ministry as we live out our calling and apply what we learn to our lives.

As we return towards 'normality' there are many difficulties for us to overcome which include both availability of people to lead groups and also the presence of those whom we seek to help.

Initially, we will focus on three aspects of serving:



We are in discussions with Foodbank to become a local HUB for our community. In order to do so we will require a limited number of volunteers to help with this ministry which will be vital in serving our community around us.

Renew Wellbeing

A quiet shared space
where it's ok not to be ok

Steve has spoken about a joint project with the other Baptist churches in our town where we create a place for people who struggle with mental health to have a safe place where it's okay to not be okay. During lockdown things have been progressing and

premises have been secured. If you would like to be part of the shared ministry with our fellow Baptist churches, please speak to Steve for further details.

PRAYER WALK

We know that prayer is a vital part of our spiritual life. Meeting with others to go on socially distanced prayer walks (in groups of no more than 6) is a great way to pray for the town, the church and the people we know who need God's touch in their lives. These

can be held at various times, but we will also be issuing some dates for organised prayer walks where we will form a number of groups to set off to pray. Look out on our Facebook page for details.

“YOUR GROUP”

As a leadership we are aware that some (though not all) of our groups are wanting to think about how they can restart. There are many different considerations that need to be taken into account before these can happen.

If you are a group leader and you want to talk about how your group may start again, please speak initially to Steve (minister) or Lis (Church secretary).



In order to facilitate groups, we will need to discuss a number of issues:

1. Completion of a Risk Assessment for Covid-19
(these need to be accepted by the leadership as trustees who as a group are accountable for ensuring that measures are followed for **ALL** church activities)
2. Your awareness of legislative requirements for your specific activities

A discussion about how your group compliments the return focus of:
WORSHIP, GROW, and SERVE

ACCESS TO THE CHURCH BUILDING

Can we please remind all key holders that we are maintaining a strict log of all those who are entering the building for Track and Trace.

If you need to access the building please register with Steve first and then only enter after permission is granted.

While you may feel safe, we owe it to others who use the building to ensure that our actions keep them safe and well.

Thank you

FINAL INFORMATION

At present this leaflet reflects our current thinking for Sept to Nov 2020. All activities are subject to change based on government or local authority guidelines and requirements.

Wednesday activities will be subject to adequate Stewards being available to facilitate the activity.

The leadership will review our activities again before December so that we can make changes and improvements based on the lessons that we learn during this time.

To request ZOOM codes for activities, to join the private Facebook group or if you have questions about this information please email

connect@cpbc.co.uk

To request access to building please email

office@cpbc.co.uk

Finally

Our continued thanks goes to all those who over many weeks have contributed to our online worship through reading, speaking, singing and technical support.