

PASTORAL UPDATE

17 March 2020



These are some pastoral thoughts during this time:

WE ARE THE CHURCH

A reminder that we don't go to church, we are the church. So let's think creatively about how we can be church during these uncertain days.

LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups exist primarily for **accountability, prayer and encouragement**. If you do have a WhatsApp or group email then you can stay in touch and share your prayer needs and pastoral concerns. It might be good to meet for a walk in the park as a triplet and simply walk and pray.

You might also want to use Zoom calls/ FaceTime/Skype to meet up virtually if someone is having to self-isolate for a while? This will be helpful especially for those in the more vulnerable categories. Please do continue to pray for every member of your group.

You may like to continue meeting at the same time as normal, but do it virtually rather physically so as not to get out of the habit of meeting together?

COMMUNITY GROUPS

In Community Groups, the focus can be more **missional and practical**. How can you help each other practically? How can those who are well help in the community with other ways of blessing people, especially for those who are isolated? In line with government advice it is best now not to meet physically as a group. But, again, you may like to continue meeting virtually at the same time as normal, rather than actually physically meeting together?

We will put a card on the Facebook page that you can print out and drop into homes nearby, as a practical way of being a blessing to those around you.

OPPORTUNITIES

Over the next few days, the Bournville and Moseley site leaders will be providing specific ideas on ways that we can engage in helping across the local area.

Please do get in touch with your site leaders, [Sarah & John Auger \(Bournville\)](#) and [Nathanael & Alice \(Moseley/Kings Heath\)](#) or [Judy Moore](#) if you have someone in your group who would appreciate a weekly phone call and we will make sure somebody gives them a call. Our aim is to have 'phone chaplains' available over the coming months to help facilitate this.

Site leaders are happy also to connect people into a group who are not currently part of one.

Please be assured of our prayers for each of you. We will stay in touch as much as we can, with details of other activities and opportunities to serve. Do keep visiting <https://riverside-church.org.uk/coronavirus-update/> for up-to-date information on any changes to Riverside activities and events.