

South Fylde Circuit



Minister:

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Friday, 20 March 2020

Dear brothers and sisters

Due to the ongoing situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and following the advice of the Methodist Church on 17th March **all activities, meetings and all worship services are suspended** until further notice.

We are sure that this news will come as a disappointment, however, we hope you will understand our desire to exercise care and concern for all. As soon as we are able, we will resume our normal activities.

Please check on your church website () for further updates.

A reminder of our guidance on pastoral visiting in care homes, hospitals and homes of poorly people:

Elderly, weak and poorly people are most likely to have low immunity and are least able to fight the coronavirus. For this reason, hospitals and care homes are discouraging or even prohibiting visiting. Consequently, for the time being our pattern of pastoral care, by Sylvester, Carolyn and our pastoral visitors, will change. Physical visits will stop and phone calls to maintain contact and prayer will be used instead. Friends visiting friends in the congregation must do so with care and mutual agreement.

We are working hard to enable us to continue some form of worship together as a community, as best we can. This may be through streaming via the internet or by providing resources so that we can worship at home, or aspects of both.

All three churches will be open this Sunday 22nd March only. This will be a space for private, silent prayer only. It is not an act of worship and there will **NOT** be any prayer stations - simply space to pray respecting strict social distancing and following COVID-19 hand washing guidance. Churches will be open between the following times: Kirkham 10.30am-11.00am; Lytham 11.00am-11.30am; and Fairhaven 10.30am-12noon. From the 22nd March all churches will be closed on Sundays until further notice.

We are working to see if it is possible to have a prayer space open in the 3 churches on one day during each week. Further information will become available on the website and via social media.

We are aware that several people from our churches are seeking to set up social media communications. While we would encourage this, we must ask that it be coordinated through Sylvester.

Finally, let us continue to support one another as a Church family at this time.

Attached to this letter is a worship sheet you can use in the meantime or post to those not on the internet. These resources will be coming out on a weekly basis.

Please remember to keep in touch with one another and pray for each other and the world.

A prayer from the Methodist Church:

*God of all hope we call on you today.
We pray for those who are living in fear:
Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them.
May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.*

*We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty.
For those people who are worried about attending worship.
For those needing to make decisions in order to care for other
For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend.
Grant us your wisdom.*

*Holy God, we remember that you have promised that
Nothing will separate us from your love – demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ.
Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you.*

Amen

Yours in Christ,
Sylvester and Carolyn.