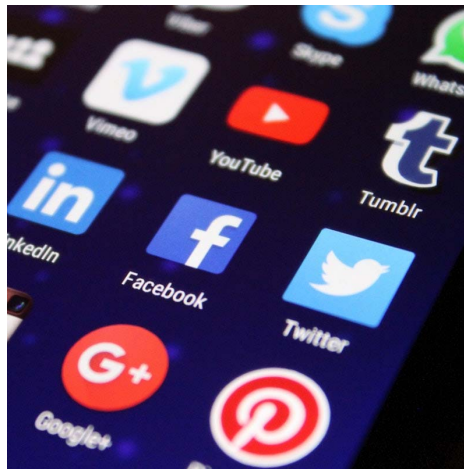




Oakham

BAPTIST CHURCH

20th March to 5th April 2020



Meeting together

You are probably not surprised, but we are very sad to have to tell you that, following the government's recent announcements, we will not be able to meet at all as a church family on Sundays or mid-week. These precautions are to protect the most vulnerable members of our church family. We are in uncharted territory. These are unprecedented times.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

We have three main priorities at this time:

- **Keep safe**
- **Keep connected**
- **Keep providing help and support.**

Keep safe

The only way we can protect all members of our church family is to keep our distance for the time being. A number of us will be self-isolating anyway because of being unwell or being vulnerable because of age, ill-health or poor mental health.

Keep connected

We are still making plans but we hope that the Life groups/small groups will be the first point of contact for most of us. We will keep in touch with:

- Phone calls
- Letters and cards
 - Texts
 - Emails
- Web site sermons etc.
 - Facebook

Rhoda will be in touch with parents to let them know how they can stay connected.

You can contact Rhoda on Rhoda@Oakhambaptist.org.uk

We are exploring how we might use technology to share sermons/ worship or prayer via ChurchSuite/internet/web site/YouTube or Facebook. If you would like to help with this, please let Ebe know on admin@oakhambaptist.org.uk

Keep providing help

If you are self-isolating for any reason, let your Life group/small group leader know so they can keep in touch with you. Sanctuary people, please contact Tim on wataa@icloud.com

If you aren't in a Life group/small group, please contact the Church office on 01572 724990 or admin@oakhambaptist.org.uk and Ebe or Rhoda will be able to help you.

We are compiling a list of people who are willing to fetch shopping and run simple errands if you unable to do it for yourself. If you would like to be added to this list of helpers, please email us on secretary@oakhambaptist.org.uk

Peter and Kate are offering to pray with you over the phone if you contact them on Prayerministry@oakhambaptist.org.uk.

We will be updating these instructions to you over the coming days and weeks. Please pass these message on to anyone who you know is not on email.

Every blessing

Julie Leefe (For Trustees)



Notice Board

Helping the Church family during the Coronavirus crisis

We want to make sure that in these difficult times, we do all we can to make sure that all our church family have the help and support they need. This may be subject to change as we can't know what further restrictions may be imposed or how situations will change for our volunteer helpers. We will do what we can!

Let us know

We do want our church family to let us know what is happening to them - so if you need to isolate, or develop symptoms, or are unwell, please let us know, if you can using the contact points we have listed below. We will be circulating prayer requests by phone and email - so rest assured that people will be praying for you, even if you can't get in touch afterwards.

Philippians 4:6 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Sadly, we are not able to offer an "emergency" service. This means that people will do their best to offer support, but will have to consider their own safety, availability of items and when they are able to meet a request.

At the moment, this is how we think we should try to keep in touch and deal with requests for help:

[Click here to continue reading](#)

Message from the Trustees

The Trustees are sorry to have to let you know that due to a change in circumstances, Graham Dunn, is having to step down as our Moderator. We are in touch with our Regional Minister, Rev Dr Nick Ashton who will be helping the Trustees to continue with the task of finding the new Minister for Oakham Baptist.

LIFE GROUPS

In consultation with the housegroup leaders and leadership, due to the groups being referred to by many different names, it has been decided that the preferred name for our housegroups will now be 'Life Groups', summed up by one of the group leaders who says that 'groups are about sharing life, but also because they are life-shaping, life-giving and life-affirming, and all about bringing our faith to bear in our day-to-day lives.'

This name change seems very timely to us as the reasoning behind this choice is that we share life together. We are certainly into a season of doing just that. Let us look to God's Word and love one another, encourage one another and pray for one another, so that we might indeed experience 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

With our love and prayers,

Peter & Kate Mancey

Suggestions for the leadership team

Please note that the last date for us to receive suggestions for new Trustees to join the leadership team is March 22. Please email secretary@oakhambaptist.org.uk or speak to Val George.

Prayer @ OBC

Prayer Line

We are sure you are being well cared for by your group leaders during this unusual season we are walking through together. However, for those not in a group or who would simply like personal and confidential prayer for God's healing, peace, protection or any other matter concerning you in connection with the virus, we are offering to pray for you over the phone. Simply email ministryteam@oakhambaptist.org.uk stating your phone number and we will call you as soon as possible.

Let us always remember, He has His strong hold upon us all. Psalm 91:14-16 (Good News)

With our love and prayers,

Peter & Kate



PRAYER CHAIN

Please contact one of the following people to share emergency prayer request:

John Donald john.donald3@btopenworld.com 07596 118036

Julie Leefe julieleefe@live.co.uk 07721 369744

Diary for 21st March - 5th April 2020

All activities have been cancelled. Any updates will be communicated by email.

Next Newsletter Edition Deadline

The next Newsletter will be sent out on **Friday, 3rd April 2020**. All articles and updates to be included in that edition of the Newsletter should be received by Monday, 30th March 2020. This Newsletter edition will cover 3rd - 19th April 2020. Please send your articles by emailing newsletter@oakhambaptist.org.uk or contact Ebe in the office on 01572 724990.

Contact information

Administrator/bookings: admin@oakhambaptist.org.uk

Church office: 01572 724990

Newsletter: newsletter@oakhambaptist.org.uk

NEW OFFICE OPENING HOURS:

Monday: 9am-5pm

Tuesday: 9am-4pm

Wednesday:

Thursday: 9am-4pm

Friday: 9am-5pm



If you're a member of Oakham Baptist Church, you'll have received login information for MyChurchSuite, the online tool that you can use to keep track of events, your team rotas and much more.

If you would like to get a login or have forgotten your password, please contact Ebe ebe.kangombe@oakhambaptist.org.uk

Our mailing address is:

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Melton Road
Oakham
Rutland
LE15 6AY