



TABERNACLE
BAPTIST CHURCH
WOLVERHAMPTON

19 March 2020

Re: Covid-19 Coronavirus

A statement from the Leadership Team

Dear Church Friends and Family,

Following the Government's latest guidelines and indeed our own Baptist Union advice with regard to social gatherings, we have decided that for the time being, all events and services at Dunstall Road will be cancelled from Tuesday March 17. There will be no services at Tab or regular prayer or other church meetings or Stay and Play for the foreseeable future.

It is our intention to assist members and friends to connect with one another and support each other in different ways. Someone said to me at a Public Health Meeting for Church Leaders on Tuesday, "we can still be Church but we will just have to do things differently". Indeed our God still reigns "...even though the earth give way, the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its water roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.....we will not fear. God **is our refuge and our strength**, an ever-present help in trouble" Psalm 46:1-3.

This disruption is a temporary measure and we pray that it will not be too long before we are able to resume meeting again.

Some of you may want to access Sunday services elsewhere—live streaming (YouTube), on-line, radio or TV.

- 10:30 Sundays (Live Streaming) with Jonathan Somerville, Woodford Baptist Church London, who has invited us to join their service at Woodford Baptist London LIVE
- 10:30 Sundays (Live Streaming) with Pastor Steve Uppal, All Nations Wolverhampton, who has invited us to join their service at [All Nations Wolverhampton LIVE](#)
- On-Line YouTube options (available any-time during the day) – search 'church service' or the name of church you want to watch; here are a few links:
 - All Soul's Langham – London <https://youtu.be/61ZUL3TIL28>
 - Greg Laurie - <https://www.youtube.com/user/HarvestTV>
 - Max Lucado - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvQYt1aBroc>
 - Charles Swindoll - <https://youtu.be/JqKK7xAHOZO>
- Radio options include: Premier or UCB are two local, Christian Radio options
- TV options include: Songs of Praise, Sundays at 1:15 on BBC

So those of you with internet can join in these livestreaming times of worship from this Sunday 22 March. For those reading this statement by letter, we encourage you to seek the comfort through the radio and/or TV. See *above for the websites, TV/radio or on other on-line services for details.*

This has the potential to be a lonely time for many people. A number of us will no doubt be self-isolating, and also those of you as advised by the NHS, for a number of weeks. Please can we urge you to follow the advice given out to us by the NHS for everyone's safety. Latest advice can be found at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus.

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It is our intention to do everything we can to ease this social isolation. We are currently working on this and how we can share our own thoughts and teaching with as many as possible. One of the ways is through the social media platform of Zoom. More details will follow.

We would like to encourage all of us who can to join us on a social media WhatsApp group for Church members and friends. There, we will be able to share thoughts, greetings and practical information with one another. We would like to set this up as soon as possible. So, if you would like to join us in this group, you will need to have a smartphone or tablet and download the free WhatsApp (WA). If you would like to join the Tab Church WA Group, please email us at **hello@tab.church**. *By sending us this email, you have authorised us to add you to the WhatsApp group.*

We want to encourage everyone to stay in touch with your housegroup via your housegroup leaders for ongoing prayer and support. If you are not a member of one, we can assign you to one for this season as a first port of call and help. So please ring us on any of the church numbers you have.

Lastly this could be a time where you want to reach out to one another or to others. Please feel free to do this; but it may be that you will want to reach out to others beyond our church walls. Navi and the Eden Project are setting up a Love My Neighbour project in our local area, if you feel you can offer with practical help of picking up shopping etc or would like to be a point of telephone contact for someone who is lonely or scared, then please go onto the website where the flyer is available for you to distribute to your neighbours. If you don't have internet, then call the church office (please leave a message if no one is available to pick up immediately).

Look out for updates from the Leadership Team on the website or via WA or other ways we connect with one another. Remember this situation is temporary. Our Heavenly Father will guide us through it. Remember our Covenant Text for 2020 -

“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today.” Exodus 14:13

Let us hold fast and hold one another in prayer. Let us look to Jesus “the Author and Finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the Cross, despising the shame and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

With love from the Leadership Team