

Dear Woodlands Church member,

“The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?” This is the word of the Lord – “thanks be to God!”

With those words firmly in our minds and hearts, we are writing to update you on the next steps we have to take as a church following the recent announcements and updates from the Government about the Coronavirus.

The Elders, with no small degree of sadness, have decided that **Sunday services should be cancelled until further notice**. Our decision rests in our desire to love each other by preventing contact and subsequent illness, but also in our desire to submit to ruling authorities as God’s word instructs us – 1 Peter 2:13.

ALL our other regular activities are also cancelled; OAKS, Acorns, 2:42 groups, Conkers, Cake Club, Junior Jivers and youth activities. In addition, all upcoming planned events are cancelled for the foreseeable future - safeguarding training, Easter Eggstravaganza and the men's breakfast.

However, we don't stop being church simply because we don't meet. We ARE the body of Christ and are called by Him to care for one another whatever is going on around us. This may mean some minimal contact with each other to support, encourage and serve in appropriate ways.

So, what will we do in the meantime? More details will follow, but we intend to provide:

- **Sunday services** online for you to watch at home on Sunday mornings.
- **ongoing pastoral care** through the Elders, small groups, individuals, etc.
- **ongoing discipleship**, small groups, through use of technology.
- **support to the local community** through leaflets we can deliver.

In terms of keeping alive and well spiritually, let's first and foremost be praying for one another. We can also use unexpected amounts of free time to read God's word, to pray, to listen to online sermons and to enjoy many of the praise and worship songs which are available on the internet.

As we do all these things, let’s use this time to care well for each other, to look away from ourselves and to think of helpful ways we can communicate with, pray for, and serve one another in love.

Cast all your anxieties on Him because He cares for you (1 Peter 5:7).

With much love in Christ,

The Elders of Woodlands Church