

Cessation of Worship in Methodist Churches.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

At 1500hrs today, the following recommendation was received from the Methodist Church.

'It is with sadness that we recommend that worship services in Methodist Churches are suspended for the time being in line with Government guidance. We would encourage people who lead services to think about how worship might be offered in different ways, including online and using **worship at home sheets**.

During this incredibly difficult time when people might want to spend time in prayer in their Methodist Church. Local trustees should consider whether it is possible to open up their churches to enable people to come and pray or sit quietly, perhaps offering prayer stations as a point of reflection with precautions around physical distancing.

Suspending services means that we advise that baptisms will not take place in public worship and if you have a wedding planned in a Methodist Church you should speak to your minister. While funerals may still take place, we would advise that the number of people attending is limited as per the Government's advice.

In terms of Church business, we recommend that all meetings including church councils and circuit meetings should be cancelled. Districts chairs will be in touch about Synods. The next meeting of the Methodist Council has been suspended and we will advise on how essential business will be carried out. We will be issuing further advice on this.'

This takes effect immediately and all worship is now cancelled across the circuit until further notice.

Thank you to all those who have prepared worship in advance.

We will explore the possibility of streamed worship across the circuit but probably not for this week. I am asking Lee to circulate the Vine worship material with the circuit newsletter as a resource for people to follow. We need to ensure it reaches beyond the electronic media to those who will feel most isolated.

The next few weeks and months will be difficult for all of us, but I pray that you will find God to be a present help and you will grow in your own walk with him.

You are in my prayers,

Paul

Superintendent
Liverpool South Circuit
Elm Hall Drive Methodist Church
Elm Hall Drive
Liverpool L18 1LF
Office: 0151 734 4540 Home: 0151 309 1878