

## CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

No doubt you will be aware of the rapidly changing advice being given by the Government about how we should respond to the Coronavirus outbreak. We have tried to follow guidelines as they have been announced, but these have changed on a daily or even hourly basis!

The current advice is:

All vulnerable people should self-isolate for at least the next 3 months to avoid contracting the virus. Vulnerable people include those over 70, pregnant women and people with underlying health problems. (i.e. a high proportion of Fivehead Baptist Church, plus many in Fivehead village!)

Anyone feeling ill, or with symptoms of fever and a new cough should self-isolate for 14 days, along with anyone in the same household.

We have decided, very reluctantly, to **close The Stable Community Cafe** until further notice.

We have **cancelled all our small group meetings** (Housegroups, WOW etc)

At present, schools and nurseries are still open, so please **watch this space to find out about Stepping Stones**.

**Baptists Together** have now issued the unprecedented advice (as have the Church of England) that public worship gatherings should be suspended, so we have no real choice but to **close our Sunday Services in Fivehead until further notice**.

To read the advice from Baptists Together, [go to the BUGB website](#). Please note that it also contains advice on pastoral visiting, which we should all adhere to, not just the Pastor or Pastoral Team leaders.

This will obviously have an effect on our fellowship as it flies in contradiction to the advice in Hebrews that we should "*not give up meeting together*." (Hebrews 12:25) However, we are also urged to respect and obey our Government and to take sensible precautions to protect ourselves and others in our communities. We will therefore be sending out regular messages to ensure that people feel "connected to the Vine" (John 15), especially those who are isolated.

Perhaps the most obvious responses are to **pray for one another**, and to **use the telephone** to contact people in the fellowship you haven't seen for a while, to make sure they feel included and loved. Please print out a copy of this email and give it to anyone who may not have access to it.

The **Church Directory** contains phone numbers for most of the current fellowship, so if you have lost your copy, please [contact Laurie](#) to obtain a new one.