

Dear Church family,

This is a time when plans can change significantly by the week, if not by the day. Bearing that in mind, here is the news as it currently stands:

COVID Update: Plans for this week

Church on Sunday

We are meeting again in person this Sunday at church, at three timeslots: 8:30am, 10:30am and 6:30pm.

Masks are required indoors for all people aged 12 years or older, unless the person has a disability, difficulty breathing or other medical reason to not wear a mask. All food and drink will need to be consumed seated. We are allowed only one singer in church, so the congregation will need to hum or say the words rather than sing.

The allowed capacity inside our church building is 62 persons plus staff. I'm taking it that we have three staff at each of our church gatherings, making our maximum capacity 65 persons. We are only likely to exceed that number at our 10:30 gathering, at which gathering our plan is as follows:

At 10:30am our COVID-Marshall will count people as they enter. On the arrival of the 65th person, they will advise our youth church leader. At that point, our youth church leader will take the whole youth church out immediately to the Jury room to start youth church early. After that, if we again reach a 65th person in the church, the COVID-Marshall will advise David Purton, who will take his Bible study outside the church to pray, until the kids talk is concluded, and Kids Church and Bubbles depart for their programs. At that point the Purton Bible study will return to the church. We consider it very unlikely that we will have more than 65 in church at that point, however we will enact further measures at that point should they be required.

Be aware that at 10:30 it will likely be needed that some people go into the hall for morning tea. The foyer plus corridor has a maximum capacity of only 35 persons.

Friday Kids Club and Youth Group

Both Kids Club (3:30pm-5:30pm) and Youth Group (6:30pm-8:30pm) will be on this Friday. Youth Group will need to wear masks, except when eating.

Evening Congregation Launch Events Delayed One Week

Due to the COVID lockdown, we need to delay all our evening congregation launch events. We have a 'dry run' for this launch this Sunday August 1st at 6:30pm, to iron out wrinkles before our public launch.

Ahead of our launch, our special outreach week, 'Belong Week' will be from 31st July - 7th August. This Saturday July 31st will now be the date we are hoping to gather members at 12:30pm. At that time, we'll have an hour's briefing and some prayer and we'll form small teams. Those teams will then some time during Belong week give out flavoured milks, and invite people to our evening gathering. Some of them will wear our special 'Belong' T-shirts as they do so. They don't all have to be evening congregation people, though we want an evening congregation member in each team.

General Church Prayer Meetings.

This Saturday's prayer meeting is still on as usual. The regular Zoom prayer time is Saturday 11am-11:40am. The zoom code is <https://zoom.us/j/544859603>.

There is a weekly prayer meeting every Tuesday in term time 10:30-11:30 at Helen Harris' house. That won't be meeting this week!

From the Bible

Here is a verse for Olympics watchers to ponder:

I saw something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong; neither is the bread to the wise, nor the wealth to the intelligent, nor the favour to the skillful. For time and chance happen to all.

Mike Russell