



**Yorkshire
North & East
Methodist District**

Responding faithfully during the Coronavirus pandemic **Ideas and Resources**

A curated list to help sustain worship and care for each other & our communities in our District

It is important for us to share creative and helpful ways of 'being church' in these days when we 'don't go to church.'

This document is for sharing and signposting practical ways in which we can encourage and mobilise good and innovative practice. There are ideas for helping sustain worship and care for each other and our wider communities. In this environment hopefully we can encourage and mobilise our people to be keeping in regular contact with members and friends, and wherever possible ensuring that people have all that they need. Pointing people to prayer and worship resources - online or in print. Our churches have the opportunity to be 'salt and light' to our communities in how we offer support and hope.

Document updated 27/03/20

Worship ideas

Methodist worship resources

Worship-related resources and information, including service sheets and links to livestreams:

www.methodist.org.uk/worship-during-coronavirus

The Methodist 'Prayer of the Day':

www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/prayer-of-the-day

The Methodist 'A Word in Time' Bible study online:

www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/the-bible/a-word-in-time

TV and Radio Services

For those who don't have the ability or technology to watch a church livestream, here is a list of low-tech services on TV and Radio - put together by Revd Paul Parker in Cornwall.

<https://onedrive.live.com/view.aspx?resid=9794450737E6583D!8825&ithint=file%2cdocx&authkey=!AIRgxFvQjbE2rYY>

Ways to connect and worship - PDF resource by the East Central Learning Network

Some ideas, resources and suggestions on how to worship and how to be church at a time of 'distant socialising' from Rev Nel Shallow, Grantham & Vale of Belvoir Methodist Circuit.

<https://thefridayfixhome.files.wordpress.com/2020/03/ways-to-connect-and-worship.pdf>

The Worship Cloud

The people at TwelveBaskets.co.uk have agreed to make copies of their Local Arrangement services free of charge until at least 31/5/20. Other downloads include Hymns, Prayers, Commentaries and Images.

<https://theworshipcloud.com>



An Ordinary Office

“An Ordinary Office” is designed to be very accessible (you can follow it through text, symbol, audio, or video). Easy to pray if you’re unwell or very tired. Morning, midday, and evening prayer, plus “nocturnes” for those who can’t sleep.

<http://anordinaryoffice.org.uk>

The Northumbria Community

Short but poetic forms of daily prayer in the “Celtic” style.

www.northumbriacommunity.org/offices/how-to-use-daily-office

Pray As You Go

A short daily act of prayer and worship, available online or as a smartphone app (search for “pray as you go” in your app store). This site uses music and pictures to help you pray and reflect with a passage of Scripture. Follows the Roman Catholic calendar, but widely used by other traditions.

<https://pray-as-you-go.org>

Thy Kingdom Come - 10 Ideas to help your church continue to worship while not gathered

Suggestions by Thy Kingdom Come on a variety of topics, including online and offline ideas.

www.thykingdomcome.global/stories/10-ideas-help-your-church-continue-worship-while-not-gathered

All We Can: All Things Hold Together – daily digital prayer and worship

All We Can are posting a series of positive and encouraging broadcasts which you can watch and join in with from the comfort of your home. Join their growing community of people ‘gathering’ to pray and worship digitally at 1:17pm every day (reflecting Colossians 1:17).

www.allwecan.org.uk/holdtogether

Care for each other - our church family

Church community during the coronavirus pandemic

While we are unable to physically meet or visit there are ways in which we can remain, or even strengthen our church communities.

www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus/church-community-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic

Why not try setting up a Facebook Group for your Church?

If some of your congregation are on Facebook, this might be a good time to start a Facebook group for your church, if you don’t already have one. It is a great way to stay in contact with each other.

Example of the effect a Facebook Group can have: “A group called ‘Sheffield Community Kindness’ was recently created, where people can post their needs and others can post what they can offer. The idea is simple and aims to bring people together and see the good in a tough situation. A mum posted that she didn’t have Calpol for her baby. Within 30 minutes, someone was able to supply her with some. Another elderly man posted that he wanted to self-isolate and needed people’s help. He’s now on the group’s radar and is going to post whenever he needs something. Another elderly woman is without toilet roll. This morning, people were dropping toilet roll outside her house.”

Pastoral Care and other resources by ‘Southern and Islands’ Learning Network

Collated important information and useful resources for leaders in circuits and churches produced by Southern Islands Region (Learning Network) of the Methodist Church on their blog.

<https://learningnetsi.org.uk/coronavirus>



Video chat for small groups

Besides having a church-wide Facebook group, it's also likely your small groups/house groups/bible studies will want a chance to get together, too. So, how should you go about doing a group video chat? Choose a platform that makes it easy to meet but also facilitates running conversations. It's not about replacing an hour of Bible study, but rather thinking about how we can keep people connected to God and to each other. Here are some options:

- WhatsApp
- Facetime (Apple)
- Zoom
- Skype
- Google Hangouts

Taking care of yourself and those around you

Have a look at some resources that have become available during the Coronavirus outbreak that can boost wellbeing and mental health to help build resilience at this difficult time.

www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus/taking-care-of-yourself-and-those-around-you

Young People, Children and Families

Take a look at these resources to help support kids during the Coronavirus outbreak, including: films to watch to build resilience, how to speak to your child, tips on celebrating kindness, compassion and imagination. Here you'll find blogs and resources written and provided by our Children, Youth and Families team to help you engage with young people during this time.

www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus/talking-to-young-people

Think of those who are not online

There are those in our churches who, due to age, a lack of ability or lack of technology, will be unable to stay connected using the online and digital means suggested in this document, and we must find ways to care for them too. There are lots of pastoral networks already arranging to make weekly phone calls, and others who are distributing printed prayers or DVDs with recorded services or sermons. What can we be doing to help those who are not online?

Care for our communities - love my neighbour

Coronavirus and the Church – Methodist Resources

Resources, blog posts and advice from the Methodist Church on helping others

www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus

Serving neighbours and speaking with friends

In the midst of the global Coronavirus crisis, we have a unique opportunity to be Gospel people: to act lovingly, speak graciously, and live humbly for the common good of all people. In addition to taking the necessary precautions to limit virus transmission, which protects the most vulnerable people in society, here are steps you can take to serve neighbours and speak with friends in this time of great anxiety and isolation:

www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus/serving-neighbours-and-speaking-with-friends

10 ways churches can help during the coronavirus pandemic

Article by Premier Christianity with helpful ideas and tips on reaching out to your community. We're living in unprecedented times, but the opportunities for the Church to minister the love of God are massive, says Krish Kandiah

www.premierchristianity.com/Blog/10-ways-churches-can-help-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic



Self-isolating kindness postcards for neighbours

You might have seen some of these cards circulating online for loving our neighbours in times of need and spreading viral kindness, originally created by one lady from Falmouth, who decided she wanted to write a better story for the world and spread kindness and love rather than fear and doubt. Many have now adapted the design or created their own version to use locally - producing small cards to put through doors offering to get provisions or to provide a listening ear. Some are making a feature of the phrase "phone a friend" to encourage keeping in regular touch.

Whilst we encourage individuals to look out for our neighbours, share kindness, and offer to get provisions or provide a listening ear to those we know, the church should only engage with this through those in an official capacity, and have been safely recruited, had safeguarding training and DBS checks (if in doubt please talk to your minister or superintendent).

For more Coronavirus Safeguarding Considerations:

www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus/safeguarding-considerations

LOVE MY NEIGHBOUR

HEY THERE, MY NAME IS _____

I LIVE AT _____

MY NUMBER IS _____

IF YOU ARE SELF-ISOLATING DUE TO COVID-19, I CAN HELP WITH:

- ♥ POST MAIL
- ♥ A FRIENDLY PHONE CALL
- ♥ PICK UP SHOPPING
- ♥ URGENT SUPPLIES
- ♥ PRAY FOR YOU
- ♥ ENCOURAGE YOU

JUST FEEL FREE TO CALL OR TEXT AND I'LL DO MY BEST TO HELP FOR FREE*. YOU CAN ALSO JOIN OUR STREET WHATSAPP GROUP!

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COST OF SUPPLIES AND FOOD IS NOT FREE. WE CAN ACCEPT CASH OR BANK TRANSFERS, ON DELIVERY.

#LOVEMYCITY #DITCHCHANGE

CORONAVIRUS IS CONTAGIOUS. PLEASE TAKE EVERY PRECAUTION TO ENSURE YOU ARE SPREADING ONLY KINDNESS, AVOID PHYSICAL CONTACT (2M DISTANCE) AND WASH YOUR HANDS REGULARLY. ITEMS SHOULD BE LEFT ON YOUR DOORSTEP.

HELLO! If you are self-isolating, I can help.

My name is

I live locally at

My phone number is

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:

Picking up shopping Posting mail

A friendly phone call Urgent supplies

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep.

Dear Neighbour,

I'm writing today to let you know that, at this time of uncertainty, I am here for you.

My name is and I live at

and my phone number is

I can help with:

Picking up shopping Emergency supplies

A friendly phone call Posting mail

Please don't hesitate to call me.

Love your neighbour

Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) - How you can support foodbanks guide

The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) have produced a simple guide on how you can support foodbanks during the coronavirus pandemic.

www.methodist.org.uk/media/16393/foodbanks-and-covid-19.pdf

Community Outreach

This shouldn't be about your church. Instead ask the question... "What do the people we serve need right now?" Here are some suggestions: Supplies. Counselling. A Godly way to process this. Healthy activities for their kids to do while isolated. A place with Wi-Fi so their kids can "go" to school. Prayer. Ways to connect in digital communities. Someone to talk to. And the list goes on. Find ways to serve your community! It just might look different right now.



Digital tools

These resources have been signposted by our district Digital Communications Enabler, if you need any help or advice regarding digital methods of reaching our congregations or communities, you can contact him at digital@yorkshirenemethodist.org

Digital Tools during the Coronavirus

If you're looking for digital tools to assist your church in the current situation, whether around livestreaming or effective church comms or how to use digital to reach out, then this resource is very useful. The document is "a crowdsourced index of useful digital communication tools for church leaders, communications teams & church staff to refer to during the coronavirus outbreak."

<https://covid.churcheshandbook.co.uk>

Top tips for doing church digitally

Five tips for churches moving online during the coronavirus pandemic, by Mark Crosby. An article on the Evangelical Alliance website.

www.eauk.org/news-and-views/top-tips-for-doing-church-digitally

Digital tools for discipleship in the local church

How do you start doing things digitally? Here's a live blog with links to helpful and important advice.

<https://medium.com/@craigphilbrick/coronavirus-digital-tools-for-discipleship-80ea4dd7970e>

Resources for churches & ministries going digital

Free resources to help migrate your worship service and community online, provided by 'Digital Evangelism Strategies' - a department of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in North America

<https://SDAdata.blog/COVID19resources>

Print Resources

Downloadable resources including posters, postcards, cards and graphics (paid & free).

www.cpo.org.uk/coronavirus

District Digital Resources

Guides, training and resources to help you reach people online and effectively use digital platforms. (recently updated with coronavirus specific guides and help)

www.yorkshirenemethodist.org/digital-resources

Stay in touch

Do submit your ideas & resources to us if you have something you want to include in this document.

Additionally, if there are good ideas that are emerging in your circuit or church which aren't included here, it would be great to share them in our District Facebook Group here:

www.facebook.com/groups/YorkshireNorthandEastMethodists/

For District related information, guidance, news, prayers, and initiatives, please keep looking at the dedicated page on the District website for updates:

www.yorkshirenemethodist.org/coronavirus

