

Dear Church Family,

*'As you come to him, the Living Stone - rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him - you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood...'*

1 Peter 2:4 & 5

With our current restrictions it is even more evident that when the Bible talks about the 'church' it isn't referring to a building but to a group of people.

Peter pictures followers of Jesus as 'living stones' who are being built into a 'spiritual house' - an integrated structure where each 'stone' is important and closely connected to the other 'stones'.

The church is not a building we meet in but a community which can't be closed.

As many of you will know the government published its latest guidance on the safe use of places of worship on 29th June. This came into force on 4th July and some church buildings opened for public worship last weekend whilst others will be doing so in the weeks ahead.

For some strands of the Christian tradition the significance of meeting in a specially consecrated building to take part in the rituals of that tradition under the leadership of specially ordained and licensed leaders is very strong... but that is not the case for us.

In last week's bulletin we stated that we would be reviewing our situation carefully and a joint Leadership Team and Trustee meeting took place last Tuesday evening.

Last week we also said there were no plans to resume normal services at this stage and following the meeting we can report that we still don't envisage holding public meetings for some time. However, we would like to find out your feelings regarding the possible resumption of corporate gatherings.

With this in mind, next week we will be sending you a link to an online survey which will enable us to gauge your opinions about the future. We will also be asking for feedback on how you have been connecting with church and how things have been for you during lockdown.

The questionnaire is designed to reflect the views of up to two people so we'd be grateful if you'd collaborate in completing it, as appropriate.

Therefore, where we have two or more email addresses for one household we will only send the link to one of these.

There will be more detailed information about the survey when we issue the survey link.

### **HBCC Online**

Our next online service will be available this Sunday from 10:30 onwards.  
All services can be found on the HBCC Facebook page and some are also on YouTube.

<https://www.facebook.com/Hesketh-Bank-Christian-Centre-137989929662209/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI-q5TmlygGFnooTXluT6kg>

### **bibleproject.com**

If you've not yet discovered this tremendous online resource please check it out. There are a lot of good things to explore; the material on how to read the Bible is very good.

### **Mid-week Reflection**

On the HBCC Family Facebook page there is a short, encouraging devotional talk each week. This is usually posted on a Wednesday morning. Many thanks to all those who've contributed so far.

### **Zoom Catchup**

The usual Zoom 'catchup' for anyone who'd like to connect with others is live after the service on Sunday; this will start at approximately 11:10 - or when the service finishes if that is later. Details will appear on HBCC Family Facebook. Anyone is welcome to join in and leave as and when you feel comfortable.

### **Stories, News and Celebrations**

If you have some news, a story, or if you would like us to share special birthdays, anniversaries or occurrences in our weekly bulletin.... send details to the church email address at [hbccentre@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hbccentre@tiscali.co.uk)

### **Giving**

There are still ongoing expenses as a church community even during lockdown. Many of you give regularly and very faithfully and we're so grateful for your continued support. If anyone would like to make any one-off gifts you can do this through online banking.

Bank Sort Code: 40-24-14

Account No: 10429627

Finally, if you need help or support during the week, you can reach us on the numbers below:

Mark-07526 989665

Steve-07484 268297

Alex-07701 042458 (Youth and Young People)

Steve - on behalf of The Leadership Team 09.07.2020