

Dear Church Family,

'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.'

Galatians 5:22 & 23a

Results of the 'Reopening of the Church Building Survey'

We are so grateful to everyone who has completed the online survey. There were 72 surveys submitted representing 115 adults and many more children and young people.

The Leadership Team and Trustees met on Tuesday to discuss the survey results and how we might proceed with regard to meeting 'in person' in the building from September onwards.

I attach a PDF report which shows a breakdown of the responses we received but these are the headlines:

To the key question, *'If we began services again in September, with social distancing in place, but without singing, refreshments and separate children's or youth activities would you want to attend?'* The answers were as follows:

Attitude to reopening in September with restrictions (by person)	
Yes , I'd want to meet together again with any restrictions that were necessary.	18
Yes, but I would also be happy to wait until we can have more 'normal' services and continue to access church online.	29
Maybe, but I would prefer to wait until we can have more 'normal' services and continue to access church online.	39
No , I'd rather wait and continue to access church online.	28
Total Individuals Represented (one person couldn't decide)	114

In percentage terms this is:

- 34% Maybe, but
- 25% Yes, but
- 25% No
- 16% Yes

So the survey tells us that 84% of respondents are at least happy to wait until we can have more normal services before we meet together again in person; 59% would at least prefer to wait and 25% would rather wait.

Following our meeting this week we have concluded that we won't be starting in person services in the building in September; but we will review the situation on a monthly basis.

One-Off Outdoor Service

Several people asked about the possibility of meeting outside as an alternative to meeting in the building. Whilst there is certainly less risk of infection or transmission in the outdoors the regulations which apply to the safe use of places of worship apply equally to the outdoor spaces and grounds of those places of worship, so social distancing and the advice against group singing are relevant in the open air too.

That said we are planning to hold a one-off outdoor service in a month or so which we will need to plan and risk-assess thoroughly.

We will let you know as soon as the plans are clearer and the necessary safeguarding protocols have been formulated.

This event would be dependent on the local rate of infection; any possible spike in cases and the weather.

Use of Media

The survey has helped us understand how people are accessing the various online media we have been producing.

It seems clear that the online service is widely watched and appreciated; emails, devotionals, Friday Focus and Post Service Zooms have all played their part in keeping people connected.

We will be continuing all of these means of connecting in the months to come, but will let you know if any are taking a break.

Our next online service will be available this Sunday from 06:00 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>

Zoom Catchup is taking a rest for the month of August.

Life Groups & Small Groups

Many of the regular groups have continued to meet virtually throughout Lockdown and as some restrictions are being lifted. Whilst groups may be taking a break during the main school holiday period we want to actively encourage all groups which are able to plan to connect via Zoom into the Autumn.

We've been especially pleased that many of you expressed an interest in either reconnecting with a Life Group or connecting with one for the first time; this is something we would wholeheartedly encourage.

So we'd like to put together some groups for this Autumn and then see how that goes. They would most likely meet on Zoom as meeting in person would probably require all kinds of risk assessments and protocols and keeping you safe is obviously a huge concern for us re. any church activities. We'll keep an eye on all that and keep you posted.

If connecting with a small group online is something you're interested in immediately, please can you contact either Stuart Taylor or Steve Barrett (contact details below) - and they will work with you to find the best arrangement possible.

Stuart Taylor - stutaylorhbcc@gmx.com 07739 236815

Steve Barrett - stevenbarrett7@gmail.com 07703 798279

Congratulations To:

Catherine Marsden for achieving a First in Media, Culture and Communications, and being the recipient of a prize from Liverpool John Moores University.

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

Giving

There are still ongoing expenses as a church community even though we are not meeting in the building. 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

Linda-07732 074420

Steve-07484 268297

Alex-07701 042458 (Youth and Young People)

Steve - on behalf of The Leadership Team 30.07.2020