

July 2020

Dear small group leaders,

First of all, thank you and well done for everything you've been doing to care for the people in your group.

The main way we're meeting is still online but following the First Minister's announcement that religious services could begin in reduced form, we've been discussing what would be best for King's. 76% of responses to our recent survey said that they would like to have a small group meeting in our building with the current restrictions, and that seems like a good first step.

We've prepared a document with all the detail you need to book, plan, and host your small group meeting. Please read it through carefully. These are the key points we need to emphasise:

- We want King's to be a blessing to our community and to be known as such, so we must take seriously the Government guidelines, adhere to them fully, and be seen by others to be doing so.
- You will need to book a two-hour slot in the evening or daytime through our online system. Given how many groups we have, you won't be able to use the building every week.
- To limit how much needs to be cleaned after each meeting we're only making the auditorium and accessible toilet available for use.
- We will provide all the sanitation equipment you need, a caretaker who will ensure that everything is done correctly, and we will be employing extra cleaning between bookings.
- If anyone in your group is shielding or has Covid-19 symptoms they must not attend. If anyone develops symptoms in the days following your meeting, you must inform the church staff.
- The Government have specified that the meetings in our building must be a form of worship or prayer service, so your group's gathering can't just be a social. Singing is not allowed and physical distancing of two metres must be kept.

Some pastoral observations:

- This is going to require more thought than your in-person gatherings used to, and a different kind of thinking than your recent Zoom meetings. You might be tired of having to thinking innovatively, and that's fair enough. We think a good question

to ask yourself (and maybe your group) is: "How can we connect with God together in these circumstances?"

- Although people in the same household don't need to stay physically distant from each other, we'd suggest that you encourage everyone to keep the two metre distance so as not to cause discomfort to those in your group who are by themselves.
- Whatever you decide to do, it is going to feel strange. It's OK to feel that and to say so to one another.
- If, having read through the guidelines and considered your group's circumstances, you decide that it just won't work for your group to meet with these restrictions, that's absolutely fine. You know your group best and we trust you to make the right decision.

Like pretty much everything else at the moment, this is a new thing for us. Please let us know what is helpful and what is not.

May the truth of Jesus's promise be so real to us during this time: "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:20)

Praying for God's grace to abound in you and your group,

Chris, on behalf of the elders