



COASTLANDS COMMUNITY CHURCH UPDATED NEWS – CORONAVIRUS 19th March 2020

The Coastlands Elders / Pastors met today to discuss our response to the latest UK Government guidance regarding Coronavirus. The Government have asked everyone to avoid non-essential social gatherings and have defined this to include all faith group meetings.

As a result, all church meetings and groups have been suspended until further notice. This, of course, includes Sunday meetings, Grow Groups, Refresh, Busybees and Ignite meetings.

We are working on ways to bring you an online streaming of worship and the word on a Sunday. We aim to use Facebook to share the stream. You will not have to have a Facebook account as this should be accessible by an email link that we can give. Further details will follow so do watch this space.

We shall continue to give news and updates by email and through our website <http://www.coastlands.co.uk> and social media pages.

We have always taught that the Church is not an event or a building, it's the people of God. As such, we believe that the Church will continue to thrive in this difficult season and be a light that shines in our communities. We are committed to providing our church family with the best pastoral care that we can, including practical support wherever possible. If you need any support at this time please contact your Grow Group leader or Pastor (01255 677223).

We encourage everyone to look out for each other, while applying wisdom, practising good hygiene and following Government advice on social interaction.

Community

To help us remain as salt and light in the community, please pray for and, where possible, support the following initiatives:

- **Frinton & Walton Churches Together Helpline** – this scheme is to assist people who have to 'self-isolate'. It is an emergency helpline to assist with providing basic foods and / or collection of prescriptions for anyone stranded at home. Volunteers are needed as 'Phone Holders' and 'Deliverers'. If you can volunteer then contact Rev Andrew Openshaw – 0300 800 0181 or email: homelandsminister@gmail.com
After Friday 20th March there will be postcards publicising this service to be posted through our neighbourhood doors. Contact Mark Rowland if you can take a bundle of the postcards for your neighbourhood.

- Coastlands Phil467 – Les has gathered a team to answer a dedicated phone line for people in the community who feel forgotten, lonely or isolated based on Philippians 4:6-7. It will provide a friendly voice for someone to talk to. It will be advertised in the April edition of “Look” Magazine.
- Food Bank – food is still very much needed (except pasta). You can continue to donate goods at collection points at the Co-op Stores in Connaught Avenue and at the Triangle or in the Frinton Free Church reception.

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Psalm 37:39-40 (The Passion Translation)

But the Lord will be the Saviour of all who love him.
 Even in their time of trouble God will live in them as strength.
 Because of their faith in him, their daily portion will be a Father’s help and deliverance from evil.
 This is true for all who turn to hide themselves in him!

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We are praying for you at this time and encourage you to continue to walk with faith and wisdom and this Sunday join with Christians all over the UK who will be lighting a candle at 7pm in the front window of our homes. This is a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer, shining in this time of darkness. As you light it pray the Lords Prayer.



With love and blessings from the Coastlands Elders & Pastors.

****Safety note** - please take all necessary fire precautions when using a lit candle. Ensure you remain with the lit candle at all times, and do not leave it to burn if you leave the room. Ensure there are no fabrics or materials such as curtains near the candle. If you are able, use a small electric ‘candle’ instead, that will be safe to leave unattended.*