

February 2021 DBC, Woodingdean

Downs Baptist Church, Woodingdean



Sunday 10.30am Worship Together
Wednesday 7.45pm Prayer Together

I thought it would be useful to communicate this way and cover some general news in church life now that we have been unable to operate as normal for 11 months.

I hope that this update will inform your prayers and highlight areas where you may be able to help in our ministry to fulfil our mission.

Together we are called to

KNOW GOD and TO MAKE GOD KNOWN.

Malcolm.

In recent months the leaders have continued to meet, usually online for fellowship and planning. For many our regular LIVE meetings on Wednesdays for prayer and Sundays for services have been really helpful communication tools. Paper versions of the services have been going out since the start.

This is a very difficult time for all of us, please bear with one another and look to continually build one another up.

Sundays Together - Wednesdays Together

We still don't know when we will be using the hall again but when we do broadcasting on Facebook will continue. We are planning for Easter services together and planning for Easter services not to be together, arghhhh.

No one is expected to come to gatherings until they are fully comfortable.

In the meantime make the most of our excellent times together on Sundays and Wednesdays and encourage your friends and family around the world to join us.

Church Structure

This is not about a building of bricks and mortar but about a building of people. We are here to know God and to make him known. We don't employ people to do this for us we do it together, each in our own way as God has equipped us.

A tried and tested structure of membership and leadership is in use. Church membership is for those who having accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour and having marked that through baptism are committed in our joint effort to be church. From within the membership leaders serve. Leaders have a great time together, ask them. With their permission members are nominated for a leadership role and the membership vote them in and support them in that role. I have to thank many who support the leaders.

From March we will have only a leadership of two plus Malcolm unless others are willing to join and help in the task.

As a church we are self-financing and every Christian is called by God to give to support the work of the church. God sustains us financially through your spiritual discipline of giving.

**THANK
YOU
FOR SERVING**



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Telephone

Many are using the telephone for calls and texts to keep in touch. This is such a valuable and important ministry. Praying over the phone, talking about the weather and listening to one another's troubles is a proper work of support.

I don't think they used the phone in Bible times but a lot of the Bible is made up of letters. 21 of the 27 books of the New Testament are letters.

Shop

The shop has managed to stay open throughout the last year despite having to reduce hours and increase deliveries. Our mission remains to share God's love via contact with all of our customers, to provide opportunities for many who volunteer and to raise the awareness of the church and our support of ministry in Kenya.

During a necessary extended break at Christmas and New Year Sue had some dry goods dispensers installed. Come with your own bag to refill with muesli, pasta and rice.

Annual Church Meeting

We are postponing the ACM until we can meet in person, expecting that to be a couple of months after the usual time in March. Please consider joining the church leadership team as Rose and John step down.

Much thanks goes to both Rose and John and they will be greatly missed in our meetings!

Staying in contact

If you need a visit or a prayer on the phone then don't be afraid to ask. Friends and leaders in the church are more than willing. Even now as you get towards the end of this letter perhaps you could be prayerfully considering who it might be good to bless with a phone call.

Off The Fence

Off the Fence continues to be frontline impacting the City for Jesus. Our Gateway project Tripled its clients using the service since lockdown, and their base we have had for ten years was put up for sale, miraculously we have been able to put in an offer and also the finance for the rebuild and refurbishment has all come in except for a few items.

Anti-freeze is recruiting and the schools are very busy as you can imagine, we value your partnership, love and fellowship, we value you

God Bless

Paul

Finance

Finance is stable and we are blessed by the generosity of all who have found ways to carry on giving through these difficult times, including switching to bank transfer. Although we continue to fall behind our budget for offering the impact has been reduced by the fact that no school hall fees have been payable during lockdown. Please remember that this will be Rose's final year as treasurer and pray into the situation regarding recruiting a new leader who can take over this role after our ACM.

Tea Lights in Jars

I've still got mine, have you got yours?

The children with the help of Margaret and Kathy made these and they are great. Margaret and Kathy continue to uphold the children and their families in prayer.

Posts for Advent and now for Lent have been a good way to work together. There is still time to get a Lent post to Malcolm.