



New Testament Church of God NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 | APRIL 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE BISHOP



A very warm welcome to the first issue of the NTCG Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a means of keeping in contact with all the NTCG Church family and provide news and updates from the National Office and across the NTCG community.

We continue to live in unprecedented times, the likes of which none of us have seen before. It is important that we remember that God is in control. Please be assured that I pray for you every day, asking God to keep you and your family safe as we go through this lockdown period.



HOW TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES

A number of you are already using these methods to keep in touch with your communities however for those that are not so knowledgeable about the various forms of technology, you can find some useful information below:

 **WHATSAPP** is a free programme on your phone for sending texts, making phone calls, sending voice notes and also has video capability with multiple people. You can set up group messages and can also broadcast messages to a number of people in your contacts. You can find an easy to follow user guide at the following link: [WHATSAPP User Guide](#)

FACEBOOK is one of the most popular social media apps. As well as being able to stay in touch with friends and family, you can also set up groups to keep in touch and communicate relevant news and events to a selection of people. This can be used to share updates / news from your church. You can find an easy to follow user guide on setting up and using groups on Facebook at the following link: [FACEBOOK User Guide](#)

 **ZOOM** is a programme for group video calling. It is a very effective way of being able to communicate with groups of people online. It is an easy to use programme for video and audio conferencing. It also has the capability of screen sharing should you want to present during the call. The programme is easy to download on the internet, your phone or a tablet. You can find an easy to follow user guide at the following link: [ZOOM User Guide](#)

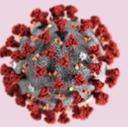
 **YOUTUBE** is another platform for uploading video messages / services / sermons for the congregation to be able to watch online. You can see the user guide for setting up your own channel at the following link: [YouTube User Guide](#)

Note: YouTube is a great source for user guides on any technology you may be using. Just go to www.youtube.com and search for what you need.

STAYING INFORMED

CORONAVIRUS: COVID-19

Unfortunately there is a lot of false information on the internet and it is important to ensure you have the correct information.



To ensure you keep up to date with the most relevant information on Coronavirus, please see the following links:

World Health Organisation (WHO):

https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1

Government Website:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

NHS:

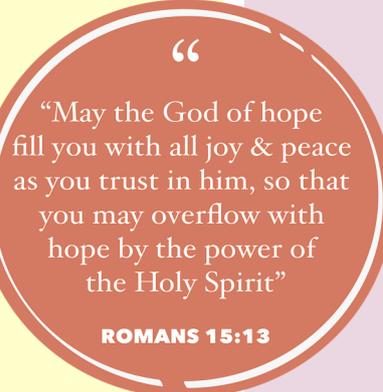
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

If anyone needs to check their symptoms, they should go to **NHS 111 Online:**

<https://111.nhs.uk/>

A reliable source of the latest news on the virus is the **BBC:**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/coronavirus>



THANK YOU FOR SHARING

Many thanks to all of you who have shared information about how you are managing the current situation. This is most appreciated.



This page aims to provide opportunities for shared learning about effective and possibly new ways of 'doing church' in the interest of our membership and the wider community.

There are some fantastic examples of best practice in evidence and to God be the glory.

FOR GOD HAS NOT GIVEN US A SPIRIT OF FEAR, BUT OF POWER & OF LOVE AND OF A SOUND MIND.

2 TIMOTHY 1:7

OFFERINGS & TITHE

Alternative ways for giving offerings and tithes:

- Direct Debit
- Standing Order
- PayPal



Some of the older members of the church may not be able to transfer money in this way so hold on to offering until they can be collected from members or when public worship recommences.

“

I've read the last page of the bible... it's all going to turn out alright

BILLY GRAHAM

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH YOUR CONGREGATION DURING 'LOCKDOWN'

There are many forms of communication in use across the world. You will see some examples of key platforms with links to user guides on page one however further examples are listed below.



TELEPHONE: There is nothing better than a traditional phone call. Some of the older generation will appreciate this. Whilst this can only be done one at a time (unless setting up a conference call), those that aren't able to engage with modern technology will appreciate this form of contact.

EMAIL: Another traditional method of communication that is a good way to communicate a message to a number of people at once e.g. service schedules

TEXT MESSAGING: [Via WhatsApp and SMS] To communicate by text with large groups of people set up in groups | WhatsApp can also be used to send voice memos which can be more personal than a text.



TELEPHONE CONFERENCE: Prayer Line | Bible reading | Services | Sermons

LIVE VIDEO CONFERENCING: [e.g. Zoom, Skype, Microsoft Teams, WhatsApp, Wirecast] Services | Sermons | Meetings | Bible readings | Virtual congregations | Prayer meetings | Sunday school

VIDEOS: Can be pre-recorded and uploaded on sites such as YouTube and Facebook | Regular podcasts | Pre-recorded services & sermons

IMAGE/INFORMATION POSTING: [Instagram, Facebook, Website] Thoughts & prayers from the Pastor | Prayer/service schedules | Church updates

CELL/CARE GROUPS: A number of you have dedicated cell/care groups set up with a leader to ensure there is a structured approach to keeping in touch with all members.

HELP CARDS: Some have engaged with members through posting help cards through letter boxes. A great example of this is from NTCG Clapton.

Cards can be personalised and this is a very effective way of reaching out to your members.

LETTERS: A number of you have written to all of your members with information they may need ie. Sources of information on COVID-19, arrangements for pastoral care, spiritual care, where they can find sermons and services (YouTube etc), key contact names and numbers, arrangements for online payment of offerings/tithe and more.



STAY AT HOME

PROTECT THE NHS

save lives



The following information is provided by the providers of the iKnow software and how it can be used at this time to make church management a little easier

Live Streaming your Sunday Service

You already stream your services? Great! Your church already streams its services each week and you know the software and tools that are used to do

this. Send an informative email to your church to encourage them to tune in to your stream. There will be people who have never used the streaming services before as they attend regular services with you - be sure to signpost to them how to get involved.

You have not streamed a service before? If you do not stream your services each week then it is quite simple to do so. You should record a live sermon at the time when your normal Sunday Service would start. If you have a computer with a camera or a smartphone then you will be able to stream a live video of your Sermon. We have guides on how to do this using [YouTube](#) and [Facebook Live](#) - both of which are free and accessible platforms.



Here are a few pointers to consider, whether your church already streams or you have never done this before:

Preparation & Communication

- Do your best and let God do the rest. For some viewers it may be their first time watching a church service online so remember to smile and invitational.
- Be comfortable: if that means standing in front of the camera, do that. Or if you would prefer sitting at your desk with a cup of tea then set it up that way.
- Don't focus on the number of viewers you have. Focus on delivering your message. (Some may watch on replay)



Service Content The content doesn't have to exactly mimic your church service format. People haven't travelled to get to the service so it shouldn't be so long. There are a number of things you won't be able to do in the same way, such as corporate worship.

Prayer: don't forget to pray during the streaming as you would normally do.

Communion: If you would normally take communion then include this in your service, allowing viewers to partake at home.

Worship: This takes a variety of forms on a Sunday Service depending on church style and preferences. Whilst it would be ideal to include worship within your online church by playing music, there are copyright and licencing restrictions preventing churches from streaming most songs.

Giving: If you take an offering during the service then mention that viewers can give online.

Staying in Touch throughout the week

We've mentioned about showing the Sunday Service online, but online video can continue during the week. You may have congregants who are on their own and will value a daily video blog from the minister for encouragement. The church has an opportunity to be the centre of the community and a regular video could be used to encourage people stuck at home. Consider if you are able to do a short encouraging video/ Facebook Live at the same time each day.

Stay in touch with vulnerable members of your community. As a church you may have made plans for keeping in touch on a 1-2-1 basis with those who you have identified as being vulnerable and on their own. A phone call will always be a first option, but if someone hasn't seen anyone for a while, a video call makes it even more personal where possible.

Regular Email Communication You might want to consider sending out a regular email to your church with an encouraging word. Software such as Mailchimp or iKnow Church mean you can easily communicate with people. Ensure you have everyone's correct details on your database.

As part of this communication you could include:

- An encouraging message; Point people to Jesus and encourage them to contact you if they want to know more about following Him.
- Links to your recent online video and information about tuning in to future live videos.
- Prayer Requests from those who are happy for this to be shared.
- If appropriate, share how you are doing being restricted at home - you could make this fun if appropriate. This is a way to bring joy to people's experience of being in isolation.
- Links to the latest official advice from the Government.



In all your communication, make sure that you point people to the one true hope. God is the comforter above all else and Jesus is the hope we can trust and depend on. A lot who receive your communication may know this but it may also be seen by those who do not yet know Jesus as Lord and Saviour.



Giving

There is much uncertainty over businesses and jobs but practically speaking, your church will still have bills to pay. If people aren't able to meet physically, online giving becomes even more important. If you use iKnow Church then make sure that your giving platform is set up so people can still give to the church.

Encourage Church members to reach their neighbours

It's not just about the church leaders staying in touch with people. Christians all over the country can use this as an opportunity to get to know their neighbours and caring for those in need. It is times of national crisis when communities do come together to support and look after each other.

YOUR WELLBEING

It is very important during this difficult period to take time for your own physical and mental wellbeing. Please see some tips below to keep you healthy.

- Eat a healthy and nutritious diet to boost your immune system.
- Limit alcohol consumption and avoid sugary drinks.



- Don't smoke. "Smoking can increase your risk of developing severe disease if you become infected."
- Adults should exercise 30min a day. Children, an hour.
- If you're working from home, get up and take a 3 minute break every 30min.
- Look after your mental health.
- Try not to read or watch too much news if it makes you anxious.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

ORDER YOUR COPY NOW!

COMING SOON

Challenges of Pentecostal Theology in the 21st Century

Edited and introduced by Phyllis Thompson

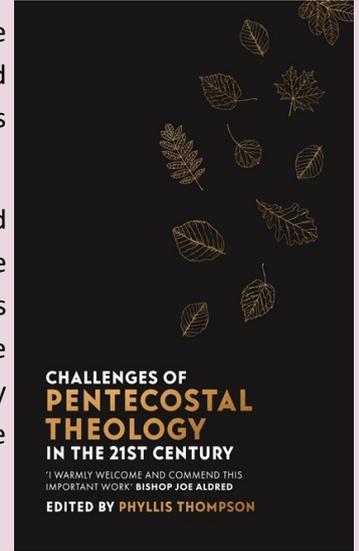
ISBN 97802 810 84258

£14.99

A team of leading Pentecostal theologians from the UK and the USA assesses the challenges and opportunities facing Pentecostalism as it matures throughout the 21st century.

Based on the Oliver Lyseight lectures (2013–17), and with contributions by Joel Edwards, Charlotte Johnson, Steven Land, Douglas Nelson, Phyllis Thompson and Keith Warrington, this book will be essential reading for Pentecostal leaders, both lay and ordained, and for students training for the ministry throughout the world.

Available in June. Copies can be ordered by emailing: Katie.mcilravie@ntcg.org.uk



COMPETITION TIME!

Would you like a chance to win a Maxwell Study Bible signed by Bishop Donald Bolt?

We would like some ideas for naming this Newsletter. Send in your ideas to Katie McIlravie by **10th May 2020**.

COMPETITION TIME!

A BIT OF FUN DURING LOCKDOWN

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I	E	N	N	S	L	R	O	M	A	N	S	C	O	MARK
S	S	T	S	B	T	H	M	A	R	K	T	O	J	JOHN
O	C	T	M	N	E	C	A	T	L	O	B	L	O	BOLT
G	R	L	P	O	V	N	A	S	A	E	P	O	H	WEBLEY
S	S	U	S	I	A	R	E	Y	A	R	P	S	N	NTCG
W	G	K	A	T	N	A	T	O	U	O	I	S	L	PSALM
E	O	E	L	A	G	I	S	A	I	A	H	I	G	JESUS
R	D	I	M	L	E	S	E	S	G	S	K	A	R	GOD
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H	S	P	O	E	S	K	I	M	I	E	E	T	J	ROMANS
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S	S	K	W	L	A	E	L	C	E	E	N	N	U	LUKE

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

In each issue, you will be introduced to a member of the NTCG Church family. Please do not hesitate to nominate someone that you feel should be featured in future.

KATIE MCILRAVIE
SECRETARY TO THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE



I have been working at the NTCG National Office for 10 weeks as Secretary to the Executive Office.

For the past (almost) 20 years, I have been working in a variety of HR roles. Last year, I made the decision for personal reasons, to seek a part time role. When the role at NTCG came up, I was delighted. It was exactly what I was looking for and I am really enjoying the role.

I have lived in Northampton for around 6 years now, having relocated from West Sussex. I met my husband Rudi in Northampton and we have our little miniature schnauzer Roxy.

If you have any news or information you wish to share via this Newsletter, please send them to Katie.mcilravie@ntcg.org.uk