



Thursday 15th October 2020

Dear Friends,

Following the latest Government advice today that London will move from Tier 1 restrictions to Tier 2 restrictions as from Saturday because of large increases in transmission rates across areas of London this will mean that there are new restrictions on people mixing between households.

Although strictly this does not mean that meeting for worship is prohibited, even in Tier 3, it is our very strong recommendation as a District Chairs that churches do not open for worship when the rate of positive cases is high. Just because we can, doesn't mean that we should.

We recognise that this will be extremely disappointing for many, especially those churches that have only just started to re-open. But it is good to know that none of the work for re-opening will have been wasted. We will be able to use all of this preparation in due course, and we look forward very much to being able to worship face-to-face as soon as it is safe to do so.

The safety of our people and communities, especially those who are most vulnerable, continues to shape our thinking. We have indicated previously that our risk assessments can only seek to reduce not eliminate the risk of transmission and therefore this is a moment when all of our local Trustees need to re-consider very carefully what they should do.

In the meantime, please do continue to worship using the various online and other resources that many have worked so hard to produce there are many opportunities across the district and the circuits have worked really hard to make sure that all our members are catered for in providing a variety of worship experiences.

Please also keep in touch with each other and, most importantly, pray. Pray for the church, for one another, for our communities and for all affected by Covid-19.

We want to come together again one day and we want all of you to be with us when it is possible to gather again. Please be careful and don't lose heart despite the length of time this is continuing on. We will come through together. Let's all play our parts.

With every blessing

Nigel, Micky, Jongi

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