

## Special announcement

### Preparing for return to public meetings

We have certainly missed the fellowship and corporate worship that the “lockdown” has prevented. It has been a grievous burden. However, we are looking to the Lord to “gather us again”. In May, the government announced the phased lifting of the “lockdown” and it is hoped churches may reopen from 4 July. No confirmed date or clear guidelines are yet available for the reopening of churches for public worship. The church officers are closely monitoring this situation and will keep the membership and congregation updated regarding plans. The return to public services was discussed by church officers on 2 June, in an online meeting, and tentative plans are put forward as follows:

- 1) Please do not attend the chapel if you have potential symptoms of Covid-19, these include (any of):
  - high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
  - new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
  - loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you’ve noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.
- 2) A hygiene station will be placed near the entranceway for hand sanitation.
- 3) While social distancing measures continue to be advised by government, social distancing procedures will be maintained at all times.
- 4) The chapel premises will be cleaned between services and deep cleaned weekly by cleaning contractors.
- 5) Rather than join with current speculation, we will await firm guidance on sung worship. Screen projection of hymns will replace physical hymn books (hymn selection will not be affected).
- 6) Holding the Lord’s Supper may pose a higher risk of potential virus transmission. We may delay reinstating this as a precaution, but will keep this under regular review.
- 7) For the midweek meeting we will meet in the chapel, to accommodate social distancing. The preaching will also be live-streamed, but the prayer time will not be broadcast online.
- 8) Other Activities such as the Open Air, Sunday school and leaflet distribution are currently being held in review.

If you have particular concerns, questions or suggestions please let the church officers know. Your suggestions will be considered in formulating plans going forward.

### Important

It is clear that people will have different thoughts and concerns about the way forward. It may not be possible to please everyone, which has already been very apparent in society as a whole. Even “so-called” experts differ on their interpretation of data. It is imperative that we are forbearing and patient with one another and also careful about our speech, that it is seasoned with grace so as not to offend. It is important also in our listening, that too is mixed with grace and mercy, so that we neither jump to take offence.

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Deacons:

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**Mr Martin Abbott**

*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

— Romans 10:17

# Maryport Street Baptist Chapel

[maryportstreetbaptist.org.uk](http://maryportstreetbaptist.org.uk)



MSBC Newsletter

June 2020



**Lord’s Day services 11:00a.m. and 6:30p.m.**

**Midweek meeting Tuesday 7:30p.m.**

*Refreshments follow the Lord’s Day evening service*



**We celebrate the Lord’s Supper after the EVENING service on the 1st Lord’s Day and after the MORNING service on the third Lord’s Day of the month.**

## Dear Congregation,

**“And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” – Isaiah 35:10**

The words of English theologian, Octavius Winslow, a contemporary of CH Spurgeon, are so encouraging in these dark and uncertain days in which we live:

*The absence of all evil will be an eminent feature of the coming glory. Take the long catalogue of ills we suffer here—the cares that corrode, the anxieties that agitate, the sorrows that depress, the bereavements that wound, the diseases that waste, the temptations that assail—in a word, whatever pains a sensitive mind, or wounds a confiding spirit; the rudeness of some, the coldness of others, the unfaithfulness and heartlessness of yet more; and as you trace the sad list, think of glory as the place where not one shall enter. All, all are entirely and eternally absent. “God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”*

*The presence of all good will take the place of the absence of all evil. And in the foreground of this picture of glory we place the full, unclouded vision of Jesus. This is the Sun that will bathe all other objects in its beams. We see Him now through faith’s telescope, and how lovely does He appear! Distant and dim as is the vision, yet so overpowering is its brightness, as for a moment to eclipse every other object.*

*How near He is brought to us, and how close we feel to Him! Encircled and absorbed by His presence, all other beings seem an intrusion, and all other joys an impertinence. Reposing upon His bosom, how sweetly sounds His voice, and how winning His language:*

*“O my dove, that are in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs, let me see your countenance, let me hear your voice; for sweet is your voice, and your countenance is lovely.”*

*These are happy moments. But how transient, and how brief their stay! Some earthly vapour floats athwart our glass, and the bright and blissful vision is gone—veiled in clouds, it has disappeared from our view! But not lost is that vision; not withdrawn is that object. As stars that hide themselves awhile, then appear again in brighter, richer lustre, so will return each view we have had of Christ. The eye that has once caught a view of the Saviour shall never lose sight of Him forever. Long and dreary nights may intervene; the vision may tarry as though it would never come again, yet those nights shall pass away, that vision shall return, and “we shall see Him as He is.” And if the distant and fitful glimpses of the glorified Christ are now so ravishing, what will the ecstatic and overpowering effect of the full unclouded vision be, when we shall see Him face to face?*

May we meditate upon the loveliness of Christ and our union with Him.

**With love in the Lord Jesus Christ,**

*Tom.*

**Lord’s Day 11:00a.m. and 6:30p.m. (Pastor)  
Midweek meeting Tuesday 7:30p.m. (Pastor)  
Sunday school (first Lord’s Day of each month)**

### Preparing for a return to public meetings

Please see a special announcement on the return to public meetings on the back page of this notice.

### Live streaming of services

We continue to live stream our services (see details to right). Alternatively, the live video stream can be accessed via the SermonAudio website or App. If anyone is struggling to access our online sermons, CD recordings can be posted to you. We continue to have a short time of fellowship after the Lord’s Day morning service.

### Prayer meetings

We are using Zoom for our prayer meetings and fellowship times. People may join Zoom meetings using a standard telephone if they have no internet access (see details to right).

## For prayer

- Please pray each week that the technology won’t fail us. Whilst we are able, the pastor and his family will continue to live stream this from the chapel. If and when this is not possible, we will do this from the manse.
- Please remember in prayer those who are sick and those recently bereaved.
- Please pray for our nation and those in authority.
- Intercede for other congregations who are experiencing trials and difficulties.
- Lift up to the Lord all the children who have attended the church and Sunday school.
- Please pray for Gospel opportunities. Whilst most of this will be done online through services being broadcast and social media, pray for other opportunities as well.

### Help

**Please don’t suffer in silence!**

If anyone needs help then please contact the church officers. They will do what they can to offer diaconal support.

If anyone requires spiritual counsel then please make this known to the Pastor. He is unable to make pastoral visits due to his health - he has to protectively isolate for the next 12 weeks, but is available on his mobile: 07752258177 or by email:

**pastor@maryportstreetbaptist.org.uk**

## Live-streamed services

For services on Sunday and the Bible Study on Tuesday Please join the live-stream service at:

**maryportstreetbaptist.org.uk/video**

The order of service for meetings is also available on this page for advance download.

Audio and video sermon recordings are made available on the sermon page on the website as soon as possible.

**Tuesday 9 June:** Pastor Robert Cordle (Harrold and Carlton Grace Baptist Church)

**Tuesday 23 June:** Rev. Kyle Paisley (Oulton Broad Free Presbyterian Church)

### Zoom meeting details:

**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7422413884**

Meeting ID: **742 241 3884**

Or dial (by your location):

- +44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom
- +44 203 051 2874 United Kingdom
- +44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom
- +44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

## Other dates for your diary

### Ladies Prayer Fellowship

Meetings are taking place weekly on Friday evenings at 7:30p.m. on Zoom. The ladies prayer meetings include readings, study discussions, a time of prayer and a time of fellowship.  
**Friday 5, 12, 19 and 26 June**