

18 March 2020

Dear Friends,

My prayers are for you, your friends, families, work colleagues and communities as we face unprecedented times. In all things we hold fast to the promise of Jesus at the end of Matthew's gospel 'I will be with you always'.

We have made the necessary but sad decision that from this morning Wednesday 18th March Wesley Church Centre will be closed until further notice, this includes church services, the cafe and fair trade shop and all activities (with the exception of foodbank provision - see below.)

I have taken this decision following guidance from the Methodist Church and in consultation with the Wesley Leadership Team. Our priority is the life and health of all who enter our premises. As best we are able, we will work with other networks in the city to see that the pastoral and practical needs of our most vulnerable are met and will keep you in touch with these developments.

Linda Tudor our administrator will be working from home (Tuesday to Friday 9-1) and will keep the website updated and co-ordinate electronic mailing. Please contact Linda by email at office@wesleychester.co.uk .

Our circuit mission development officer Andrew Herbert will continue to liaise with the West Cheshire Foodbank trustees and other agencies to ensure those that those who need to access the provision that Foodbank offers can do so safely. New arrangements will be announced as soon as possible about where you can donate food. If you have a query in this regard please email Andrew andrew@wesleychester.co.uk

While the Fair Trade shop is closed you can buy Traidcraft products online <https://www.traidcraft.co.uk/>

If you have a pastoral or prayer request then please email me directly christine.dutton@methodist.org.uk . We have a network of Wesley people who share in this ministry with me.

I will not be doing regular home or hospital visits during this time, but will be in touch online and by phone. I am hoping that we can schedule and re-schedule baptisms, weddings, thanksgiving and memorial services for later in the year. I will continue to conduct funerals in line with Methodist Church guidelines.

Further guidance is available at

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

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/coronavirus/>

Take care of yourselves and keep in touch by email, phone or via social media

<https://www.facebook.com/wesleychurchcentrechester/>

<https://twitter.com/wesleycentre>

Your sister in Christ

Christine

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