



THFC Coronavirus (COVID-19) Statement – Dated 14th March 2020

In light of the continued increase of Coronavirus cases in the United Kingdom THFC has decided to issue the following guidance, which draws on advice and best practice from the NHS and Public Health England.

At this time, there is no guidance from Public Health England to cancel church services and events, so THFC will continue as planned with our Sunday services, children work and pre-planned events, whilst remaining attentive to any changes in government advice and guidance. At the point that there is any change in the current advice, we will reconsider that position and react according to the new advice.

Whilst the church remains open though, there are a number of recommendations that we will be putting into place, and guidance that we will be endorsing to the church to try and prevent the spread of Coronavirus:

- We recommend avoiding handshaking or other direct physical contact, and we will be suspending handshaking or physical contact by those serving as welcomers
- We will be suspending all catering and formal church fellowship after the church service
- We will provide hand gel at entrances and ensure there is a good supply of soap or hand gel in cloakrooms and kitchens and any other appropriate areas
- Pastoral visits to individuals who are self-isolating will be done through telephone contact rather than personal visits
- We will ensure good regular cleaning of surfaces people touch regularly, including such things as door handles, light switches, etc
- We will continue with weekly communion; however, to mitigate the risk of transmission between individuals through handling the bread or wine, we will deliver communion to each individual, rather than receiving it from the front of church

Please also note the general Public Health England advice concerning self-isolation:

If you have either of the following symptoms of Coronavirus infection, however mild, do not leave your home for 7 days from when your symptoms started:

- a high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- a new, continuous cough – this means you've started coughing repeatedly

Should you need to self-isolate, or if you have had a confirmed case of Coronavirus, please do let the church know. We would love to be able to pray for you, and support you during that time. It is also important for our safeguarding of the church that we know of any confirmed Coronavirus cases that may impact on the church. You can make contact in the following ways:

- <http://facebook.com/TurnersHillFreeChurch>
- Prayer Message Groups
- Contacting the Elders via elders@thfchurch.org or via personal telephone numbers
- Contacting another church member who can notify the Elders

As a leadership team, we will continue to closely monitor the situation surrounding Coronavirus, and will seek to follow all government guidance and advice. Should the situation change we will update our guidance and update the church at the earliest opportunity.

We continue to pray for impact of Coronavirus around the world, in our country, and in our church. We pray protection for those most vulnerable, and healing for those affected by Coronavirus.