

Pastoral Update #1

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Date: 20 March 2020

Preacher: Derek Lamont

[0 : 00] It's Friday the 20th of March 2020 and this is the first of a pastoral video that we hope to put out once a week from St Columba's just to update you on what's happening. So to let you know what's happening on Sunday we are live streaming the services at 11am and 5 30pm.

The link is syncsfc.org forward slash live stream and you'll find the service there.

Harrington Community Church, one of our church plants will be joining us on Sunday morning and we look forward to that. If you're part of a city group that have already had met on online platforms why don't you meet up after the service to discuss it maybe, to pray, to drink coffee. So the 11 o'clock and then 5 30 we'll have a shorter live stream and John Watson one of our ministers in training will be leading that. At 7pm on Sunday we hope to join the rest of the nation, the Christian churches and different Christians in the nation to pray as part of a national day of prayer for God to intervene in this situation and turn what has become a real national challenge into something that will result into his glory. So moving forward just a couple of things I want to mention we're moving forward on the basis that what we're doing just now will happen for at least 12 weeks probably longer and if things get worse for example if there's a city-wide lockdown then probably the Sunday stream will look a little bit different from what it's looking for now we'll not be able to record from the church it will probably be from the manse and it might just be more informal and less like an ordinary church service. But we want to stress a couple of things from the leadership point of view and the first is sustainability because it's going to be happening for quite a long time we realise our resources are quite limited and self-isolation might make things harder so we want to put what we want to provide centrally we want to be able to keep providing and sustain what we're doing and because of that simplicity is very important you'll have one email correspondence on a Wednesday and that email is what you currently get if you're in the habit of not reading it then please do read it if it check your promotions or your junk mail sometimes it will go into that and do read it because it will give you an update and you can also of course follow us on Twitter or on Facebook or you can subscribe to our YouTube channel which will give you information. We also have this one short pastoral video each week the services will always be online 11 a.m and 5 30 p.m on a Sunday. On Wednesday evenings we want to keep the pattern the same engine room one week city groups the following week but of course city groups can be anytime with the added flexibility of meeting online but on the engine room we hope to have an online platform to meet together and pray and that will happen this week more information will go out about that but generally we really want to encourage the pastoral areas of city groups and people within that to be in touch with one another every day as I mentioned on Wednesday in the email pray please pray that's the most vital thing to do more important than all the hearing all the information that's going on just now phone someone new every day from your pastoral area within the church or even out with the church of course and think of one way that you can help practically or be helped and don't be slow to ask for help so that the pastoral teams in the city groups are very very important for us so sustainability simplicity and also stability we want to focus our attention on the Lord Jesus Christ we're looking at the Sermon on the Mount on a Sunday morning and at the end of that Jesus says if you hear these words of mine and put them into practice you'll be like the wise man who built this house on the rock when the storms came that house stood and we know that that is a picture of putting our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ in the hardest and most difficult

of times and so we want to keep that focus and that perspective and that stability and I want just to finish with a reading from my massive big preacher's Bible from Colossians 3 verse 3 which is since then you have been raised with Christ set your hearts on things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God set your minds on things above non earthly things for you died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God when Christ who is your life appears then you will also appear with him in glory so in all our questions fears doubts and concerns help us maybe be people who keep our eyes on Jesus Christ through all of this thanks