



Matthew Henry Evangelical Church  
Nevin Road, Blacon, Chester, CH1 5RS

17 July 2020

Dear

We have written a few times over the months to explain and update what is taking place as we respond to the changing events resulting from Covid-19. Well the days tick by and it is so easy to lose track of time - can we believe it is the middle of July, the weather certainly doesn't feel that way. As the days became weeks, and the weeks have become months we can end up wondering when it will all end? Who would have thought that it would be more than 16 weeks since we last met in the building on a Sunday morning. We are a people who are called to gather and meet together to jointly worship, praise, pray and learn from God's Word.

We are encouraged in Hebrews 10 v22-25 to ***"draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. "***

While we have not been physically able to meet we have had a heart's desire to gather each Sunday morning and we have been so grateful to Nathan and others for helping to make our collective times still very special - above all we thank God for being with us as we have met. But we are thankful that some will be able to meet together in the building this week. For those for whom this is not possible we will continue to miss you but know that we are truly 'one in Jesus' and we trust you will still be able to join via a livestream of the service or a little later via a recording.

We will take a break from our series in 1 Corinthians over the Summer but God willing pick it up in the Autumn. This Sunday I plan to share a message on our 'hope in God' - see verse 23 above! During August there is a need for a break from some of the activities and so we are considering joining again with St Neots. This will be confirmed in the next week or so.

### **Meeting on Sunday 10.30**

We had a small prayer meeting last Sunday evening in the building and a number of things were clarified and have been actioned to make sure that as we meet this Sunday the building is as they say 'Covid Secure'. We will all have a part to play in helping. One area is making sure we do not exceed the number of people we can safely accommodate in the main meeting area - **only around 20. If you are planning to come it would be helpful to know in advance, please can you email or text me (07964 191901) - thanks.**

We will not be able to run a zoom catch up straightway after the service but will have the opportunity to link up at 5pm.

**Sunday 5pm Prayer time**

This is a time we have been encouraged to pray during the lockdown. Hopefully many of you will be able to join in as we continue to seek God's direction and blessing as we move into the next phase of 'coming out of lockdown', discovering God's plans for getting to know Jesus more and making Him known in our community.

**Topic: MHEC Prayer Zoom Meeting**

**Time: Jul 19, 2020 05:00 PM London**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73680285417?pwd=d1dQdjAvWTF5K01ZYU9hclltRHlqdz09>**

**Meeting ID: 736 8028 5417**

**Passcode: 8auySm**

**General Info on meeting**

Much of this information was shared previously but a reminder. As part of the **Risk Assessment** there are a number of things we have done but will require those attending to help with as well. Many of those things we are aware of through the media and our general going out but here is the initial advice

- If you have any signs of the virus **PLEASE** do not attend a meeting
- We will be keeping a register of all those who attend a meeting for 21 days after which we can destroy it. If you come down with symptoms after a meeting then you will need to let Christine know. We would then have to inform the appropriate authority who would initiate the Test & Trace. Depending on how we have interacted during our meeting there is a possibility that all who have been in attendance would need to self isolate for the requisite time period. We are being asked not to mingle and chat between household groups before & after the service. (This will be hard as we want to catch up!).
- Safe distancing 2m ideally at all times. We have placed markers on the floor to help guide
- Hand sanitiser - available on entry, at access point to toilets and main meeting room, on exit
- Seating is currently in pairs 2m apart but could be amended for a larger household. You will be directed where to sit and how to exit at the end of the meeting.
- We are not to sing (or shout) as this potentially spreads the virus over a much larger area
- We are not requiring people to wear masks (at present) unless we can't meet the 2m spacing (e.g possibly those working on the PA desk).

**Toilet**

Hopefully not too many will need to use the toilet but if you do a few instructions:

- Only the disabled toilet will be available initially
- Entry to that area one person at a time, stand back in foyer area while waiting, keeping a safe distance from others
- Hand sanitise on the way in
- When finished close the toilet lid before flushing (new soft close lid fitted)
- Wipe the door handle, tap and flush handle with antibac wipe (provided)
- Wash hands

## **The way forward**

As we have the opportunity for some to physically meet in the coming weeks we know that there are a number who will still need to take extra precautions and self isolate longer - this is going to be extra hard. We need to be vigilant that the enemy doesn't come and pull us down, especially in how we respond to lots of ongoing and new pressures. Pray as we seek the best way to keep those staying at home or others joining in who are not currently part of the church linked in.

Make the most of the opportunities to phone and chat, video call etc and pray together - "encourage one another".

Looking forward to meeting with some of you Sunday morning and seeing (zooming) some of you Sunday evening as we pray together.

Every blessing

David