

Pastor Paul Pease's update
Saturday 8th August 2020

Dear Disciple,

Greetings in the wonderful Name of our Saviour who loved the church and gave himself to redeem her and make her holy and honourable. In His Name, and on behalf of the HAT (Hook Awareness Team) I would like to update you on the progress we are making to ease out of lockdown.

First of all, we have moved Kev Brett into the ministry of Pastoral Care Coordinator alongside Carole. This is a growing ministry amongst both men and women, and Kev and Carole will serve well together in this role. This now means that the HAT is made up of:

- Paul - Senior Pastor
- Tim - Pastor of Youth and Young Families
- David Cogdell - Elder
- Ray James - Elder
- Richard Brown - Elder
- Steve Wigginton - Elder
- Alan Rigby - Deacon
- Bob Stoneham - Deacon
- Dave Batten - Deacon (Chair of HAT)
- Carole Henderson - Pastoral Care Coordinator
- Kev Brett - Pastoral Care Coordinator

We do value your continued prayers for wisdom and the Lord's guidance in all our deliberations. The aim of HAT is, as Iris wrote in her prayer the other day, to have "wisdom in their decisions on reopening our meetings while protecting peoples health." We are also very conscious of our witness in the community and want to maintain our good reputation built up over many years of being a blessing to those around us.

Next, it's exciting to know that the work on our building is progressing well and we **hope** to have the Industrial cleaners in during the first week of September which means we **may** be able to start having smaller ministries begin later that month. All this is of course subject to change.

We are still watching and waiting as to when we can restart our Sunday Ministries in our building. We are learning from other churches and the FIEC as to how to do this. There are some tricky things to think through so as to ensure our building is covid-secure. There are also theological and fellowship items to get right. Meanwhile we continue our online ministries on Sundays and Wednesdays.

One of the major things we are working on is the restart of our many varied ministries in church life. As you know we want to start afresh with people who are 100% committed to their team and ministry. Hence the elder who is overseeing your team (See Trellis attachment) has either already contacted you or will do soon about your commitment to that ministry.

We now find that we need to make Risk Assessments for all ministries that take place in the name of Hook Church whether in the building or outside the building. This is a bit of a pain, but we are working hard on these so that there is no delay to restarting ministries as soon as we can. Nothing can restart without a Risk Assessment for that ministry. I attach the completed Risk Assessment for visiting people in their homes so you can see some of the details we need to go into. This particular Risk Assessment is for the Visiting Team Ministry, but if you visit anyone on behalf of Hook Church then you need to follow this Risk Assessment too. However if you visit simply as a friend to another friend then you do not need to follow this Risk Assessment, just the Government guidelines.

You will have noticed that I have used the word "ministries" a lot! That is because we are trying to move away from the words "rota" and "meeting" and use "ministry" instead. This is a far more Biblical word and makes us think far more positively about a "rota" or a "meeting". **You are not on a "rota" you are in a "ministry" through which you serve people. You do not attend a "meeting" but a "ministry" in which the Lord serves you through His people.** Forget "Tea/Coffee rotas", think "Tea/Coffee ministries". Forget "Stewarding rota", think "Stewarding ministry". Forget "Wednesday Meeting", think "Wednesday ministry", and so on. (I know some clever people will say "but it is still a rota, it is still a meeting", and of course it is; but calling it a ministry changes how we view it and serve on it, and makes it far more dynamic).

Well, that is all for now. These are frustrating and uncertain times for us all and we need patience and understanding as we wait on the Lord. I thank God that he has kept us together in unity and peace. I also rejoice that God is using you to minister to one another and share the love of Jesus in wonderful and creative ways during lockdown. *"Let us not become weary in doing good."* (Galatians 6v9)

I am so looking forward to when we can meet again for fellowship, worship and ministry.

Love from your servant,
Paul