



Staying Connected. Week Beginning 19th July 2020 Pastoral Letter

Dear friends,

Our Staying Connected resources and Zoom worship are based on a local arrangement worship compiled by the worship group in Bakewell. Both are based on the theme of 'Change', for as Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler [secretary of the Methodist Conference] writes in the Summer edition of 'Connexion' – "COVID-19 has taken us into unfamiliar territory and the challenge for the church is 'to sing a new song' a song that is born out of listening to the society in which we are placed'.

Our District is very aware that there are many "how" questions for us to grapple with as Christian communities, and over the next few weeks will be sharing some questions, part of the 'What next?' campaign, to help guide us through these conversations. If you are interested in knowing more, you can do this by going to <https://mailchi.mp/d1f4adca2e1d/mission-news-what-next>
Below are the first of these for us to think about and maybe to discuss in small groups.

SMALL IS THE NEW BIG



IF YOU CANNOT GATHER, HOW CAN EVERYONE BE PART OF A WORSHIPPING, PRAYING AND MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE SMALL GROUP RIGHT NOW?

HOW WILL YOU ENCOURAGE AND STRENGTHEN ALL THE SMALL GROUPS IN YOUR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

GROWING DISCIPLES FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

CRINGE FACTOR



BEFORE LOCKDOWN, HOW OFTEN DID YOU THINK "I WISH I HAD INVITED MY FRIEND/ NEIGHBOUR/ FAMILY TO THIS SERVICE? THEY WOULD HAVE LOVED IT"

WHAT MUST CHANGE SO YOU DO AND THEY CAN?

PASSIONATE CONTEXTUAL WORSHIP FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

PRETEND YOU ARE OUTSIDE



IF YOU HAD NEVER BEEN TO CHURCH, HOW WOULD YOU FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHURCH IS DOING RIGHT NOW?

WHY WOULD YOU LOOK FOR A CHURCH ANYWAY?

SHARING STORIES FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

NEVER EVER SAY "GO BACK"



RESTART NOTHING BY DEFAULT

LOOK FORWARD - SAVE YOUR ENERGY FOR WHAT IS RELEVANT FOR NOW OR THE FUTURE

BE INTENTIONAL IN EVERYTHING YOU DO AS A CHURCH

TRANSFORMING MISSION FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

So much for us to think about and to reflect upon, but as Adrian wrote last week, 'what this time of lockdown has done for us, is given us the chance to stop – to get off of the treadmill – and reflect on where we have been, where we are now, and what God is asking of us for the future.'

God bless everyone, from the worship group in Bakewell.