

Covid-19 TRBC update July 2020

On Tuesday 30th June we the church leaders met together online to discuss whether to reopen the church building, following the recent [Government guidance](#). The Baptist Union (BU) issued their guidance as well you can view the full reports from the [BU website](#). If you would like printed copies of any of the guidance, including a summary that we have done, please let Faith know.

The guidance is such that we cannot return to a normal Sunday morning service with many restrictions including no singing, no hugging, no hand shaking, no socialising before and after the service, maintain the 2m social distancing, no serving of tea & coffee, shorter services and so on. We also have many people over 70 who are a higher risk category. There is also a considerable amount of planning and preparation that is required before we could re-open our church building to have a very different service.

We are also aware of a few churches in other countries that did open but have then closed again as this caused an increase in the number of corona virus cases.

We have decided that for the time being the church building will remain closed for Sunday morning services and no activities will happen in the building, for both church and hirers.

We have agonised over this decision and have many concerns about meeting up together, as much as our hearts would desire to do so. We want to show love and care for our church family and don't want anyone to catch the virus if we started meeting together again now.

We will re-evaluate our decision not to re-open at the end of August and in the meantime wait and see what changes may be made to the Government and BU guidelines rather than rushing back into meeting again now and put all of us at unnecessary risk.

We hope you will understand this difficult decision that we have had to make and respect it. If you are someone who is looking forward to the church reopening, we would love to know what you were looking forward to, to see if there is something else that can be done to help you in a way that meeting together does.