

The Journey Out of Lockdown

After easter, our next horizon is Midsummer, the 21st June.

Things are still uncertain and we'll be following the government guidelines as we start our journey out of lockdown as a church. We will match our steps with those of government. These steps have provisional dates based on progress made in the fight against the virus. If the government changes dates, we'll change ours to stay in line with the national Steps. This assumes that the four steps the Government set in February are completed on time, if not, then dates may slip. Confused? So are we!

Step 1 *no earlier than 29th March*

We carry on as we are!

Easter will be online or on DVD. It's important to stay in touch, so support the others in your '5' group, pray for them and they will pray for you.

Step 2 *no earlier than 12th April*

Some groups can start back at 3Trees.

Step 3 *no earlier than 17th May*

Sunday mornings In Real Life (IRL) begin to be phased in. We will trial some Sunday Mornings IRL on 23rd May and 13th June. Online will continue each week.

Midday Prayers moves to 3 times per week.

Olive Branch re-opens at 3Trees.

Step 4 *no earlier than 21st June*

21st June, if we are in Step 4 we will hold a Church Family get together in the evening of Midsummer.

Sunday Mornings start, 3 Sundays per month from 27th June

And then, we Walk Carefully!

From this point to the end of the year we start walking to the next horizon. It is unlikely things will be fully back to normal this side of Christmas so we will take our time.

July – August

Sunday Mornings will run 3 times per month, with the first Sunday online only.

Thursday Communion moves to Online once per month, IRL once per month.

Midday Prayers pause over August.

September - December:

Thursday Group restarts at 3Trees with IRL communion once per month.

Online Thursday Communion once per month.

Midday Prayers 3 days per week.

Circle (men's group) restarts.

Monthly Church family events to revive and grow our fellowship.

Monthly 3Trees social events to revive and grow wider community.

All Souls event for the community.

This means we have 3 horizons to cross this year, **Easter**, **Midsummer** and **ADVENT**.

These will mark our journey out of lockdown into the new place God is taking us. Keep walking and praying, we'll get there!



Chelmsley Wood
Baptist Church

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Notes & Comments

While we pray and prepare to restart our life together, remember that we never stopped! We never stopped worshipping, we never stopped being God's people. In fact, we have grown in many ways over the year. We haven't lost a year, we have lived through a difficult year, and now it is time to restart, leave some things behind and maybe start some new things.

So here are a few things to note and to think about.....

This plan assumes that the four steps the Government set in February are completed on time, if not, then dates may slip. Also, if the restrictions change we will also have to change. This is a working plan, to give us a direction but it has flexibility if we need to rethink. **Be ready to adapt** as we go along!

As we prepare to meet again, you might to **consider some questions** about our life together as a church family....

What's important as we return?

Is there anything you are glad we stopped doing?

Is this a chance to start something new?

What have we done or learnt that we need to take with us into the next chapter of our life together?

What are our priorities? Connecting everyone? Re-establishing family life? Growing as disciples?

How can we keep things simple? Anything else...?

Can/should our restart focus on being family, small, personal, caring, growing?

Can we try to be more Kingdom people than people who go to church on Sunday?

What else do we need to consider?

We will be in a **planning state** for the rest of the year, once we reach Step 4 we'll have to think about how we manage the return of everything, what we do about Christmas, what happens in 2022, is there an opportunity for new things?

These longer term questions are not worth lying awake at night about, but they will need to be thought about in the autumn.

Sunday Mornings

Sunday Mornings Online have been a learning curve for us. We have been able to stay connected with each other, pray together, reached people who aren't able to get to a church building, and also gained new people (hello!). It would be a shame to lose this part of our life together so we are going to take a phased approach to returning Sunday mornings. This will enable us to be careful and also adapt if restrictions are tightened at any point.

Once we are in Step 4 we will hold InRealLife Sundays 3 times per month. We will also livestream these, with someone in the congregation acting as host, who will share conversation and prayers with the people online. On the first Sunday of the month we will meet online only for worship and this will enable us to broaden our worship in terms of music and speakers.

We'll try this out until the end of the year with a review late Autumn

To strengthen our relationships we'll start a monthly Sunday Lunch together from September.

