

Approaching the journey towards your resumption of church life



Let this mind be in you

In Philippians chapter 2 verses 1-11 Paul sets out God's vision for a unity church community. Right at the centre of the passage we have the well-known verse, 'Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus'. It's a reminder that our attitude of heart and mind determines and directs how we act and react in the real circumstances of our lives.

As we approach our congregation's journey towards resumption of a fuller and fresh expression of church life, we need to do so with prayerfully prepared hearts tuned to the mind of Christ and refined in his image.

Be generous

It is going to be easy to become so caught up with the challenges of reconnecting with our own members and restarting activities for them. In doing so, we could miss the opportunities that might be before us to reach out to our local communities as they feel their way into the post-Covid world. Those who never come near our church have experienced many of the same trials as we have. We have lived through a genuinely 'shared experience' as a society.

So, remain alert to the wider need and impulse of people in the community to be together as restrictions ease. Be generous in extending invitations to church activities to others beyond your own membership as a way of sharing God's grace. Also, think about how you might deepen your interest and involvement in global mission by finding some practical ways you could support an overseas person, project or place in their post-Covid recovery. The generosity of God's people has already made a deep impact in many lives during the pandemic. Build on that in small, but significant ways to continue to connect more widely and commend the gospel more deeply.

Prayer

Loving God,
Thank you for all the ways in which you bless us by making us part of the body of Christ.
Thank you that among its people we know your presence, comfort,
encouragement and support.
But help us to remember as we rebuild our church life,
that you call us to play our part in the redemption of the world beyond;
that there are many who have no spiritual home,
no spiritual family,
no spiritual comfort in you.
Ravaged and restless by the effects of the pandemic,
they too need to know your generous love in Christ.
Show us how to share it by gracious giving of our time,
gentle listening and witness,
generous invitation to find life and rest and peace in the gospel.
In Jesus' name.

Amen.