



Hi Church,

The most searched for Bible verse on the internet last weekend was Philippians 4:6-7, which Lottie read on our live stream last Sunday:

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

I know this is an uncertain time for many of us with loss of jobs, change of income, cancelled weddings, inability to see family and many people still hard at work on the essential frontline with schools, foodbanks and medical services.

This is an unprecedented time and the Freedom Church team are doing an incredible job of creating new ways for us to stay connected to each other and ensure our attention is fully focussed on our rock solid, reliable God.

As of today, we are offering four ways that you can stay involved in the life of the church:

1. Online Meetings

You can join us for our new online version of church on Sundays at 10am and then repeated at 7pm. Login through the church website www.freedomchurch.uk and you will be able to chat and pray with others on the online platform or watch it on your smart TV via our YouTube channel 'Freedom Church UK'. The evening repeat will also be shown on our Facebook Page.

A week feels like a long time at the moment, so we will also be including a Wednesday evening Bible Study with myself (Sim) from 7pm. We will be looking at 'Flourishing in Isolation' and be exploring the books of the Bible that Paul wrote while under house arrest in Rome.

Each morning at 9am, on our Church Facebook group, there will be 15 minutes of interactive prayer that will be led by different church partners. This will be fully interactive so come and join in and start your day with prayer.

Ben Tanton, our Youth Leader and Tracy Norbury, our Freedom Kids Leader, will be creating new opportunities for the various age groups to connect over the coming weeks – more information to follow!

2. Offering Support

In these uncertain times, we want to find ways to help one another within the limitations we are facing. Let us know if you need help in any way and we will do all we can to support you as a church family. Email pastoral@freedomchurch.uk and we will be in touch. The Romsey Foodbank is still operating as the need has increased, but we are having to operate with minimal staffing. We are extremely grateful to all the people who have been donating food, without their generosity we would be running out fairly quickly. If you know someone that needs help or would like to donate please go to www.romsey.foodbank.org.uk

3. Join a Group

One of the best ways we can support each other is by staying in touch. We know that we are better together, which is challenging in the present circumstances. We might not be able to meet as Connect Groups, but we can use virtual meeting apps or make a phone call – it's still a great way to stay in touch. We are currently working with our existing Connect Groups to encourage them to sub-divide into smaller online communities, which meet for a shorter period of time, a couple of times a week. If you are not in a group and would like to be connected with others in our community at this time, please contact pastoral@freedomchurch.uk and we will get you into a group as soon as possible.

4. Give Financially

We have been so encouraged by the generosity of people who have given in the last few days to the work of Freedom Matters (which incorporates Foodbank and CAP). If you would like to give to this, or our Freedom Fund, to help those in need at this time please do get in touch with tim@freedomchurch.uk or just head to our Giving Page online at www.freedomchurch.uk/giving - thank you.

Don't forget that, if at any time you want to know what is going on, how to access support or find out the latest updates, head to the update page on www.freedomchurch.uk.

Lastly, do stay safe and well in your homes as you follow the guidance from Public Health England and the NHS, but I also want to encourage you to stay spiritually well and follow the guidance of our amazing creator God. Set aside time each day to pray and read the Bible.

We are praying for you and your families at this time, that you may experience God's peace, which exceeds ANYTHING we can understand.

Do stay in touch, loads of love to you all at this time,

Sim & Lottie