



**Oakwood  
Church**  
A Methodist-Anglican Partnership

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## **Supporting each other during the COVID-19 restrictions**

### **1. The Church Contact System**

Oakwood Church has a Contact System of people who have signed themselves up to it (and/or are Methodist Church members, and/or have signed on to the Church of England Electoral Roll). 'Church Contact People' have a list of these people whom they keep in touch with at church or by phone. This is not a visiting system. We are asking all these Contact People to telephone their list to ask them some questions. We do not think that Contact People will be giving all the potential support themselves, but just making contact and feeding back as necessary to the ministers. Do what you can, but do please let us know if you think we could arrange someone else to help. Questions we are asking –

- a) How are you at the moment?
- b) What support can we offer to you now? What support can we offer if you are self-isolating? We may be able to offer regular phone calls. We may be able to help with shopping (see below). Can you offer support to others?
- c) Do we have the correct contact details for you? If they need correcting, then please report this to the ministers.
- d) Would it be helpful for the church to have emergency contact details for you – someone you would like to be contacted if you are experiencing difficulties? If anyone would like this then please ask them to contact the ministers directly so we avoid passing this new personal information between too many people, and can receive the necessary permissions to hold and use it.

### **2. Practical Support for people who are self-isolating**

a) We encourage everyone to be working together with their neighbours to support one another practically, whilst observing the government guidelines on preventing infection.

b) If we learn of anyone in the community who needs help directly from the church to take shopping then we will endeavour to arrange this. We encourage you to ask people in need to contact the ministers directly.

People doing this task on behalf of the church are asked to observe these guidelines –

- i) Observe government health guidelines: do not have any contact closer than 2m and do not enter anyone's home. Leave shopping at the door.
- ii) Our safeguarding policy advises not to exchange money with people, but in these unusual circumstances we recommend instead a limit of £10 per shop. The person shopping should obtain a receipt to pass onto the recipient, and should keep a copy for themselves (eg a mobile phone photo). Payment (on delivery of shopping only, not in advance) should be arranged by bank transfer, telephone banking (use the number on back of your bank card), cheque (if you do not have Covid-19), or cash as a last resort.

### **3. Prayer**

Whilst public worship is not possible, we will publish a prayer list regularly and display it on the church website, Facebook page and the noticeboard outside the church building. If you have prayer requests, please contact the ministers, by email or phone, and also state clearly whether you would like your request displayed. We need specific permission from people to publish prayers about them. Please everyone join in praying – though separate, still together.