

31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Re: **Memorandum**  
**TIER 4: No in-person meetings & statement**

As most of you will now be aware, Cumbria has moved into Tier 4 restrictions to be reviewed fortnightly. This does have an impact on our Church activities and for a number of reasons we have decided to suspend Sunday services in the interim. It's not an easy decision but there are a number of factors regarding opening which we feel uncomfortable with and therefore making a decision based on the best light we have for now.

Under tier 4 rules we cannot run the children's junior service on Sundays or in-person midweek groups such as house-groups, but technically we could open for Sunday worship. Some church denominations have taken the decision to suspend in-person services under tier 4 as a show of support in fighting infection rates within communities. Although we are an independent Church we do feel that, in the current climate, we should also do what we can to assist with slowing the spread.

Government guidance states, "It is recommended that, where possible, places of worship continue to stream worship or other events to avoid large gatherings and to continue to reach those individuals who are self-isolating" and "there should be a particular focus on protecting people who are clinically vulnerable and more likely to develop severe illness, including people who are aged 70 or older, regardless of medical conditions." In tier 4, the extremely clinically vulnerable "are strongly advised to stay at home as much as possible and not to travel unless it is essential".

In the strangest of ways, we have decided to be a light to the community by not meeting! Showing we care, showing love and showing responsibility. When the NHS is subjected to critical levels and increased pressure, and people within our community are at risk, we feel the best course of action is not to exercise our legal right to gather for in-person worship services. This will be kept under review in the hope it doesn't become a protracted cancellation of Sunday services. We do want to open safely and with wisdom.

In the meantime we will be making the best use of technology for our members to meet and our house-group system will keep people supported and connected.



Rev. David Darren Roy  
*Chairman to the Trustees*