



'Where Everybody is Somebody'

25<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## **Ruach City Church Covid-19 Update: Re-opening of Ruach City Church Locations**

Ruach City Church continues to actively monitor the COVID-19 / Coronavirus developments as it relates to the health and well-being of our staff, volunteers, partners, congregation and community. We are also in continual discussions with government representatives and church leaders.

The Government has announced that Churches (places of worship) can reopen on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020. With careful and prayerful consideration we have not had a release in our spirit to reopen within these timescales.

We still have major concerns for the welfare of our congregation and people, as the Government guidelines are still unclear and do not address some fundamental issues especially in direct connection to BAME (black, asian and minority ethnic) communities, and the expectations around how we worship and conduct our services. The current guidelines suggest that only one person can speak or sing, but there is to be no congregation participation, e.g. no singing, shouting or participation to be allowed.

Ruach City Church locations as you know are public buildings, and if we have to restrict individuals attending, the whole purpose of what church is about can be potentially compromised or lost.

There are rumours of another spike in covid-19 cases, and myself and Co-Pastor Penny are reluctant to make a decision that could lead to illness or the death of any of our congregation, our people or the general public. Your health and safety is of paramount importance to us and we have to be certain the decisions we make take all relevant factors into consideration. We very much appreciate all those who responded to the survey sent to our Partners and Volunteers, asking for your feedback which continues to be part of our discussions and any decisions we make.

Ruach City Church have completed the appropriate risk assessments to all our locations, and have fully liaised with our Insurance provider who is satisfied with the steps we are undertaking.

We note that from the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 TFL have changed the Congestion Charge parameters, and have extended it to include weekends and is now from 7am – 10pm, which may impact travel decisions and arrangements for many of our congregants. Together, with other churches, we have registered our concerns at government level, regarding the negative impact that this change will have.





'Where Everybody is Somebody'

We, of course remain prayerful and continue to keep our ears and hearts open to the leading and direction of God, and will review this decision in line with appropriate information from the Government and supporting agencies when it becomes available. We will continue to keep you updated.

We encourage you to remain connected via the live service broadcasts, Access Life Application - Bible Studies, Prayer and other activities. We also commit to praying for you, your family and supporting you and our communities in the best way possible. We pray that God continues to bring us Divine Clarity in this season and we stand on the focus scripture for June:

**Proverbs 16:9: A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps (NKJV).**

Every blessing to you and your family,

*Bishop John & Co-Pastor Penny Francis*

Bishop John & Co-Pastor Penny Francis

