

Vision and culture Night Wednesday 1 July 2020

Attendees: Pastor Gideon
Yemi & Yomi Ayodele
Tracey Nash
Jessica Nash
James & Jacquie Max-Lino
Sharon Okwu
Samantha Stewart
Lydia Adusei, Danielle & Sheree Tolbert
Jenny & Hasina Simms, Dawn Simms and Leon
Monica Nganga
Temi & Tobi Busari
Sasha Kasujja
Sharon Nsubuga
Darren Thompson and Poly Tomlinson
Hannah Abdul Razak
Farida Abdul-Razak
Dwayne McLean
Kathy-Anne Thomas
Bramwell Simiyu
Lloyd and Alice Gallimore
Jackie Bygrave
Latkay Magba-Kamara
Josephine Shalita
Danni Lee
Daina Pinard
Declan, Kalleen & Conor Egan
Melinda Barthel
Tania Besigye Kemigisha
Samuel & Ruth Leary
Kemmy Majiyagbe
Sylvia & Moses Mibuulo
Musu Soko & Jimmy Olumakin
Juliana Oyewole & Moses Broadbent
Funmi Kola-Ojo
Gary & Sonya Hibbert
Catherine Henry
Irene Nash – Minutes

Pastor Gideon prayed to open the meeting using Isaiah 41:10. He said, God is saying do not fear, do not anxiously look about for God is with us. Pastor Gideon received a prophetic word before the lockdown that no lives would be lost in SSBC as a result of coronavirus and although some were very ill with the virus, no lives have been lost in the church. We give God the glory.

He said whilst some are keen to return to church after the lockdown, others also may not be ready to return as yet, if you know anyone who is not ready to return please let the leadership know so that we can know how to support them in the interim period.

The Church of England, Baptist Church, and Methodist church meet the Government to draw up the guideline for the churches which as a leadership we have been using that document for discussions.

Executive Leadership Team met 3 weeks ago to discuss the way forward after the lockdown and what church might look like. Others were not invited into this meeting as leaders must lead to bring clarity and leadership to avoid dysfunction and chaos. The Executive Leadership Team (ELT) have met twice and discussed the briefing notes from the Government and most of the issues are covered.

Pastor Gideon and Pastor Irene have met ushers, children & youth workers, the cleaning team and Service Leaders to discuss practicalities of new Government directives and to ascertain if they would like to volunteer when church re-opens and also discussed how volunteering in their areas is likely to change after the lockdown. Pastor Gideon also had a brief chat with Declan before Vision and Culture Night.

What will church look like from here on?

We will practice social distancing, keeping hygiene and contact tracing and Declan has taken the initiative to start risk assessment for the church to be discussed with PG in due course.

The church's database system iKnow will be used to register church attendants to enable contact tracing to be initiated when needed. Regular attenders/members of the church should complete the church database with their details (necessary requirements will be sent directly by email), visitors information will be kept for 21 days. This form of registration is not new to the church as anyone who has attended the Discipleship pathway has been registered on our database, there is therefore a system already in place to record attendance. Administration will send the link for iKnow database to all in attendance to either complete or amend details where necessary.

A question was posted on the chat and a written reply sent: How will we know if we have completed all data requirements fully and correctly? The standard data requirements on the iKnow church database are: First & Last Name, D.O.B., Phone number, Home address, Email address and profile picture. Admin staff/GDPR Officers will check everyone's profiles and we will always let you know if anything is incomplete.

A press release will be issued on the website informing the church of what to expect after lockdown.

Maintaining hygiene – the church so far has ordered Covid-19 products in order to meet the requirements of the law. A total of £770.96 has been spent and £300 spent on communion fellowship cups; we estimate it will cost about £1,500 in total. If God touches your heart and

you want to contribute towards the purchase of Covid-19 products, please feel free to do so to the church bank account.

All entering the premises must sanitise their hands. Hand sanitisers will be available to use at the welcome area and Lower Hall. Ushers to wear masks.

A question was asked: have you determined a maximum capacity for church services? And how will you enforce this? PG said the building takes about 600 hundred people, priority will be given to the elderly, less able bodied and parents with babies/young children to use the sanctuary. The able bodied will be directed to go upstairs/the balcony. Alternative rows in the sanctuary will not be occupied during service, alternative seats will also not be occupied unless families from the same household sit together, face masks are optional at church, 2 ushers to be upstairs to help maintain social distancing, volunteers needed to join ushering team as they are stretched.

Social distancing will be maintained throughout the building. Those using upstairs/balcony will also have to social distance, there will be stickers on the wooden floor to remind the church. PG therefore said the church should be able to easily accommodate about 200 people with social distancing.

The use of the lift: people of the same household can use the lift without mask. If unrelated, only two can use the lift at a time and they should wear a face mask.

Using the toilets downstairs: we will maintain social distancing by putting stickers on the floor. All four cubicles in the ladies' toilet can be used. There are 3 washbasins, we will decommission the middle washbasin, if someone comes out of the cubicle and the two washbasins are being used, they need to wait in front of their cubicle until a wash basin becomes available to use. 1m plus is recommended distance. Children under the age of 8 not to be allowed to use the toilet by themselves, they should be accompanied by a responsible person.

Communion: we will use pre-packed communion cups and wafers as we were doing before the lockdown.

Offering: this is an ability to sow into the kingdom of heaven to help maintain the kingdom of God. Please continue giving your offering online and give your name as a reference. If you prefer to give by cash or envelope system, we will put the offering bowl in front of the stage (or upstairs) and you walk up and put your offering in the offering bucket. Ushers will take the bucket to the less able bodied for them to give their offering if needed. We will operate a one-way system for bringing offering as we do when we take communion together.

Children/Youth work: PG assured volunteers to step out of volunteering if they were not comfortable to come to church when church re-opens. He said only those who are committed to children/youth ministry will be asked to teach/volunteer in this ministry. He also appealed for more volunteers to join this ministry. It was noted that some parents may

not want their children to come to church yet; that is okay, there will be online presence for people to still be ministered to.

Youth Ministry now to meet in lower hall instead of Alpha Room to be able to observe social distancing.

A question was asked: if a 9 year old comes to church, where will they sit? They will sit upstairs/balcony until it is time to go to their various group.

A question was asked: Is the time still going to be 10:30am to 12:30pm? Yes, service time will remain the same. However, it may well be a shorter service.

PG said, when the Government announces for churches to re-open, we will not do so immediately but wait until the building is ready. The earliest we will go back could be 19 July but this is subject to change. ELT to meet on Monday 6 July to take this forward.

Cleaning: Lydia cleans the toilets, lower hall areas, upper room, door handles etc weekly on Mondays, and the other team cleans the sanctuary, including wooden chairs, upstairs/balcony, the glass doors, door handles etc on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. Please consider volunteering to help clean the building and make it safe. Please speak to Lydia or Tracey for more information.

PG is yet to meet the technical team.

If we are to go back on 19 July can various ministry teams meet during the week for practice? PG said this is yet to be decided.

A question was asked: what is happening with worship in church? I believe the guidance is that singing and loud voices should be avoided? Yes, if the restrictions placed on churches are: no singing, no praying, no preaching then what are we going to church for? Church is where we pray and worship. If this is the case and nothing changes then PG said, we will wait and delay opening church until these restrictions are removed. Christians don't only sing, they worship.

Online Presence: we will continue having our online presence whether we come to church or not as a number of people outside of SSBC now depend on the service.

HOP will continue on ZOOM every Wednesday @ 7pm till September.

Discipleship Pathway: this works better face to face, however we might consider doing certain parts of it on a different day of the week other than Wednesday on ZOOM.

PG met service leaders: all have indicated they will be available to lead services when church re-opens.

Elder Yomi prayed to close the meeting.